# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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# HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
SIXTIETH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

**SESSION 2010–2012**

COMPRISING PERIOD
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*14 March 2011*

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Monday 14 March 2011*

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Independent Fuel Poverty Review

**The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Chris Huhne):** The coalition Government announced their intention at the spending review to launch an independent review of the fuel poverty target and definition. I have asked Professor John Hills of the London School of Economics to lead this review. The review is expected to publish interim findings in autumn 2011 and to deliver a final report to Government by January 2012.

The terms of reference for the review are:

1. To consider fuel poverty from first principles: to determine the nature of the issues at its core, including the extent to which fuel poverty is distinct from poverty more generally, and the detriment it causes.

2. As appropriate, and subject to the findings under (1), to develop possible formulations for a future definition and any associated form of target, which would best contribute to:

addressing the underlying causes identified;

helping Government focus their resources (which are set out in the spending review for the period to 2014-15) and policies on those who need most support;

measuring the cost-effectiveness of different interventions in contributing to progress towards any target; and

developing practical solutions, particularly around identification and targeting of households and measuring progress resulting from Government action.

The review's website is available at www.decc.gov.uk/hillsfuelpovertyreview where any updates on progress will be posted.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Linda Norgrove

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague):** In my statement of 2 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 987-994, I informed the House of the outcome of the US/UK military investigation into the death of the British aid worker, Linda Norgrove, who was taken hostage by insurgents in Afghanistan on 26 September 2010 and who died during a US-led rescue operation on the night of 8 October 2010. I reminded the House that Her Majesty's coroner for Wiltshire and Swindon was legally responsible for determining the cause of death and that my statement could not in any way prejudice the course of his inquiries.

HM coroner completed his inquest on 15 February 2011 and has recorded a narrative verdict. The full redacted US/UK military investigation report was published on 9 March 2011.

I am grateful to the US/UK investigation team for the thoroughness of their investigation. It is our long-standing policy not to comment on the tactics of British or our allies' special forces but I am confident that the appropriate tactical lessons have been shared and learnt. I pay tribute to the courage of the US forces who risked their own lives to try and rescue Linda Norgrove.

The inquest has confirmed the tragic circumstances of Linda Norgrove's death. Ms Norgrove's parents have shown great dignity and strength throughout their ordeal. They have set up the Linda Norgrove Foundation to continue their daughter's desire to help bring prosperity and security to the Afghan people as their country is rebuilt. Linda Norgrove's work will continue to be an inspiration.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Rosemary Nelson Inquiry

**The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson):** In anticipation of the publication of the report of the Rosemary Nelson inquiry, I have today asked a team of officials to commence the checking of the inquiry's report in relation to human rights and national security matters, as outlined below. I intend to adopt the same approach as was used for the checking of the report of the Bloody Sunday, Billy Wright and Robert Hamill inquiry reports.

As I informed the House in my written statement of 16 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 131WS, the Nelson inquiry intends to complete its report by the end of April 2011. I am responsible for publication of the inquiry's report, once it is delivered to me. I am advised that I have a duty, as a public authority under the Human Rights Act, to act in a way that is compatible with the European convention on human rights (ECHR). To fulfil this duty, I need to take steps to satisfy myself that publication of the report will not breach article 2 of the convention by putting the lives or safety of individuals at risk. I am advised that these obligations must be met by me personally, in my capacity as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. Although the inquiry is also a public authority under the Human Rights Act, I am not entitled to rely on the inquiry to satisfy my article 2 obligations and I have a duty to assess this myself. I also have a duty to satisfy myself that publication will not put national security at risk, for example by disclosing details of sources of protected information.

I have established a small team to assist me in carrying out this necessary exercise. The team will comprise the Northern Ireland Office's principal legal adviser, two officials from the Ministry of Defence, one official from the Police Service of Northern Ireland and one official and one legal adviser from the Security Service, who are familiar with the sensitive material provided to the inquiry panel. This team will be granted access to the report under strict terms of confidentiality and for the sole purpose of carrying out the necessary checks, and they will report directly to me alone. Neither I nor any official beyond the members of the checking team will have access to the report until 24 hours before it is published. Sir Michael Morland has agreed that this team can carry out the checks on the inquiry's premises while the report remains in the custody of the inquiry. I understand that the report will be made available for checking today.

I want to publish the report in its entirety. Should any concerns about the safety of any individual arise, my first course of action would be to consider whether these can be addressed through alternative means. Were I to reach the conclusion, on advice, that a redaction to the text might be necessary, I would consult Sir Michael Morland. In the very unlikely event that any redaction was deemed necessary, my intention would be to make this clear on the face of the report.

The report must be published first for this House, and I intend to publish the report as soon as possible once the report and the checking process has been completed. However, I acknowledge the importance of this inquiry's findings in the lives of a number of individuals. As with the publication of the Bloody Sunday and Billy Wright inquiry reports, I intend to consider giving advance sight to those who were designated as represented parties by the inquiry. I intend to discuss this with the Speaker of the House in due course.

## TRANSPORT

### Coastguard Service (Consultation)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning):** My statement of 16 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 133-34WS, announced the commencement of a consultation on proposals for the modernisation of the coastguard service, concluding on 24 March. These proposals cover both the reorganisation of the rescue co-ordination work undertaken by regular coastguard officers and specifically include an investment of resources to strengthen the support given to the volunteers in the coastguard rescue service who serve their local communities by providing an effective, knowledgeable and responsive local rescue service.

An extensive programme of public engagement meetings organised by the coastguard will be completed by 16 March 2011. I have been very grateful for the contributions of all of those who have attended these meetings. However, to give all interested parties more time to further develop their thoughts and submissions, including alternative proposals, I have decided to extend the period for submission of written responses by a further six weeks to 5 May 2011.

The Transport Select Committee has also announced its intention to hold an inquiry into the modernisation proposals. Provided the Transport Select Committee is able to produce its report in a timely manner, I would expect to allow a further short period for consultation following publication of that report.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

**The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling):** The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council met on 7 March 2011 in Brussels. I represented the United Kingdom.

The first debate focused on Europe 2020 and the European semester. The presidency asked member states for views on social and employment measures that needed tackling urgently. The Commission reiterated the need for national targets in meeting the Europe 2020 headline targets and highlighted that not all member states had set a national employment or a poverty target. Some member states' responses included setting a high level of ambition in the employment and social inclusion targets, while others argued for more realism. For the UK, I stressed that actions to remove obstacles to employment should be at the heart of policies to promote growth and that addressing the EU's relatively low labour market participation required a mix of measures, including improvements to welfare policies, education systems and regulatory policies. The EU should focus on growth and reducing regulatory burdens, particularly for small and medium-sized companies. I explained the UK approach, prioritising welfare reforms aimed at helping people break the cycle of benefit dependency and ensuring that work was a better option than welfare. I also stressed that the UK was investing heavily in targeted interventions and in improving skills.

In the second debate, the Commission presented results of the Green Paper consultation on adequate, sustainable and safe European pension systems. Most member states agreed with the need for reforms, but many pointed to the need for subsidiarity, recalling the very different national situations and conditions across the European Union. There was broad support for continued use of the open method of co-ordination. For the UK, I explained the recent pension reforms in the UK and also argued against unnecessary changes such as the revised solvency rules which could cause employers to close their occupational pension schemes. This was an issue on which all UK stakeholders were in agreement.

The Council adopted a number of Council conclusions. These covered the joint employment report in the context of the annual growth survey 2011, the European platform against poverty and social exclusion, the further development of an electronic exchange system facilitating the administrative co-operation in the framework of the posting of workers directive, and the European pact for gender equality (2011- 2020). The UK abstained on the joint employment report as it had not cleared parliamentary scrutiny.

The Council also took note of the annual report on progress towards equality between women and men 2010. The report acknowledges areas where progress has been made, both at national and European level.

Under any other business, the presidency reported on the informal meeting of the Ministers for Employment, and provided an update on two legislative areas, "seasonal workers" and "intra-corporate transferees". The Employment Committee and Social Protection Committee chairs provided information on their work programmes for 2011, and there was a presentation from the French delegation on plans for their G20 Labour and Employment Ministers' meeting, which will take place in September 2011.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Tuesday 15 March 2011*

## TREASURY

### Tax Policy Making, Tax Impact Assessments and Tax Information and Impact Notes

**The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke):** As set out in "Improving tax policy making: the new approach" published on 9 December 2010, the Government have adopted a new process for undertaking impact assessment of tax and national insurance contributions (NICs) policy changes. This new tailored tax impact assessment process will be used throughout the development of tax and NICs policy and will be summarised in tax information and impact notes. These notes set out what the policy change is, why the Government are proposing the change and a summary of the impacts of the change. As explained below, they will be produced for all substantive changes in tax and NICs policy by primary and secondary legislation.

This new approach will consider a wider range of impacts and cover a broader range of policy changes than the existing impact assessment regime for tax. The Government are committed to consulting on tax policy changes and will use consultation and stakeholder engagement to inform and test their understanding of the impacts of a proposed change in policy.

From Budget 2011 onwards, the Government will publish a tax information and impact note for tax policy changes at the point at which the policy design is final or near final. This could be alongside the Budget, publication of draft legislation or final legislation, as appropriate. These notes will provide a clear statement of the policy objective, impact on the Exchequer, the economy, individuals, businesses and civil society organisations, as well as any equality and other specific impact.

Tax information and impact notes will be available on the websites of HM Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs, and will be provided to Parliament through the normal publication channels.

There will be a number of exceptions where a tax information and impact note will not usually be published alongside a routine legislative change that gives effect to previously announced policy, for example:

routine changes to rates, thresholds and allowances to a predetermined formula such as indexation;

appointed day orders;

secondary legislation enacting double taxation treaties; and

secondary legislation not laid before Parliament.

### Hutton Review

**The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne):** Will Hutton has today published the final report of his review of fair pay in the public sector.

In May the Government asked Will Hutton to make recommendations to the Chancellor and the Prime Minister by March 2011 on promoting pay fairness in the public sector by tackling disparities between the lowest and highest paid in public sector organisations.

The Government welcome this report and are grateful for the work of Will Hutton and the staff of the review. The Government are committed to striking a balance between value for money for taxpayers and fair pay for public sector workers. We will give careful consideration to the recommendations and respond in detail in due course.

The report is available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office and it has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

The report is also available on the review's website at http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/indreview_willhutton_fairpay.htm.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Diplomatic Service Appeals Board

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Alistair Burt):** Following the proposal by the public bodies review on 14 October to abolish the Civil Service Appeals Board (CSAB), the Secretary of State has taken the decision to close the Diplomatic Service Appeals Board (DSAB). Like the CSAB, the DSAB was a non-departmental public body. It heard appeals from dismissed members of the diplomatic service, mirroring the main role of the CSAB which considered appeals from dismissed members of the home civil service. The internal appeals mechanisms for staff members dismissed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will remain in place. They may also make a claim of unfair dismissal to an employment tribunal.

The Permanent Under Secretary of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has written to the current DSAB members thanking them for the contribution they have made to the board.

## JUSTICE

### Draft Defamation Bill

**The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke):** The Government have today laid before Parliament a draft Bill on defamation for public consultation and pre-legislative scrutiny. This reflects the coalition commitment to review the law of libel to protect free speech.

There are real concerns that the threat of libel proceedings is being used to frustrate robust scientific and academic debate, and to impede responsible investigative journalism and the valuable work undertaken by non-governmental organisations. These concerns relate not only to cases which actually come before the courts, but also in relation to the chilling effect on freedom of expression that is created more widely by the threat of costly and protracted legal proceedings against defendants who may often have limited resources.

The proposals in the draft Bill and consultation paper aim to ensure that the right balance in the law is achieved, so that people who have been defamed are able to take action to protect their reputation where appropriate, but so that free speech is not unjustifiably impeded. We also want to look at ways of speeding court cases up, so as to cut the costs involved in defamation proceedings.

The draft Bill contains provisions on the following issues:

> A new requirement that a statement must have caused or be likely to cause substantial harm in order for it to be defamatory;
>
> A new statutory defence of responsible publication on matters of public interest;
>
> A statutory defence of truth (replacing the current common law defence of justification);
>
> A statutory defence of honest opinion (replacing the current common law defence of fair/honest comment);
>
> Provisions updating and extending the circumstances in which the defences of absolute and qualified privilege are available;
>
> Introduction of a single publication rule to prevent an action being brought in relation to publication of the same material by the same publisher after a one-year limitation period has passed;
>
> Action to address libel tourism by ensuring a court will not accept jurisdiction unless satisfied that England and Wales is clearly the most appropriate place to bring an action against someone who is not domiciled in the UK or an EU member state;
>
> Removal of the presumption in favour of jury trial, so that the judge would have a discretion to order jury trial where it is in the interests of justice.

Issues which have not been included in the draft Bill at this stage, but on which the consultation paper seeks views are:

> Responsibility for publication on the internet. The paper seeks views on whether the law should be changed to give greater protection to secondary publishers such as internet service providers, discussion forums and (in an offline context) booksellers, or alternatively how the existing law should be updated and clarified;
>
> A new court procedure to resolve key preliminary issues at as early a stage as possible, so that the length and cost of defamation proceedings can be substantially reduced;
>
> Whether the summary disposal procedure should be retained, and if so whether improvements can usefully be made to it;
>
> Whether the power of the court under the summary procedure to order publication of a summary of its judgment should be made more widely available in defamation proceedings;
>
> Whether further action is needed beyond the proposals in the draft Bill and the introduction of a new court procedure to address issues relating to an inequality of arms in defamation proceedings, including whether any specific restrictions should be placed on the ability of corporations to bring a defamation action;
>
> Whether the current provisions in case law restricting the ability of public authorities and bodies exercising public functions to bring defamation actions should be placed in statute and whether these restrictions should be extended to other bodies exercising public functions.

We believe that publication of a draft Bill for full public consultation and pre-legislative scrutiny will help us to achieve fully considered legislative proposals which focus on core issues of concern where legislation can make a real difference. After the consultation process is completed, we intend to introduce substantive legislation as soon as parliamentary time allows.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Wednesday 16 March 2011*

## CABINET OFFICE

### Public Bodies Reform Programme

**The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Francis Maude):** The coalition Government are committed to reducing the number and cost of quangos and increasing accountability by transferring the responsibility for key decisions of public policy back to Ministers.

On 14 October 2010, I placed in the Libraries of both Houses a list of proposed reforms to take forward this commitment. The Public Bodies Bill has since been introduced to provide the legislative basis for reform. I have also placed in the Libraries an updated list of proposed reforms this morning.

Committees of both Houses have shown significant interest in the Government's review. This statement accompanies our response to a report of the Public Administration Select Committee, "Smaller Government: Shrinking the Quango State".

The Government welcome this opportunity to restate the aims and intentions of our reform programme for public bodies, and to correct some misunderstandings and inaccuracies apparent in that report.

With these reforms, we will increase accountability by putting into practice our clear presumption that functions carried out by the state should be accountable through democratically elected structures. We will ensure clear chains of democratic accountability through to Ministers, by transferring functions into a Department, or by creating a new executive agency. We will also increase accountability to local decision makers and will also support our big society, transferring functions from public bodies to local government, voluntary or charitable bodies or social enterprises.

A secondary, but important, purpose is to remove duplication and waste, save taxpayers' money and to streamline a chaotic and confusing public bodies landscape.

PASC has criticised the Government for being unable to identify exact cost savings. We were always clear that savings would flow from this programme of rationalisation and reform. I can now announce that we estimate that cumulative administrative savings of £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period. When reductions in programme and capital spend are taken into account, we estimate that total spending through public bodies will be reduced by at least £11 billion per year by 2014-15, a cumulative amount of £30 billion over the spending review period. This does not include spending simply transferred elsewhere.

At the time of the October announcement, I indicated a number of reviews were still in progress, with bodies listed as "under consideration". I publish with this statement an updated list of reform proposals, giving more certainty to the staff in those public bodies as to how the Government's review programme will affect them.

Implementation is being taken forward by Departments, with the Cabinet Office operating as a source of support and guidance. I publish two key Cabinet Office documents today: a checklist of issues Departments need to consider in implementing public bodies reform; and a set of eight key requirements that must be followed in all cases (these requirements are annexed to the Government's response to PASC).

The Government's commitment to reform of public bodies does not end with the implementation of this first stage of reform proposals. I also publish today a summary of a new robust system of triennial reviews and underline our determination to take decisive action where future reviews highlight inefficiency and waste. The Government intend that the powers in the Public Bodies Bill will provide a proportionate mechanism to implement the conclusions of subsequent reviews.

Reducing the number and cost of public bodies is a coalition priority. It is important that we make progress and I make no excuse for the speed at which we have sought to realise our commitment. There is momentum and cross-party support for a radical programme of reform. We have already brought forward proposals on an unprecedented scale and with the Public Bodies Bill and our implementation plans we take those proposals to fruition. With our future process of review and reform, we will continue to ensure accountability in public life and identify and drive out inefficiency, duplication and waste.

## DEFENCE

### Ex-service Personnel

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan):** My hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Justice, the Member for Reigate (Mr Blunt) and I wish to make the following joint statement.

Further to the announcement on 15 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 40WS on the number of ex-service personnel in prison in England and Wales, we want today to announce the findings of the Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) study into the number of former service personnel on probation in England and Wales. DASA estimates that 3.4% (or 5,860) of those supervised by probation trusts in England and Wales, as at 30 September 2009, had previously served as regulars in the UK armed forces. The figure has been adjusted upwards to take into account the incompleteness of DASA's service leavers database which did not hold reliable records for those who had left the services prior to 1979 (Naval Service), 1973 (Army) and 1969 (RAF).

The analysis entailed matching the personal details of all 18-year-olds and over with a supervision record held by the 35 probation trusts in England and Wales (172,203 records as at 30 September 2009) against DASA's service leavers database (1.3 million records). Of the matched records, 57% were for community orders; 25% for suspended sentences orders and 18% for post-release licences. DASA also found this group to be predominately male (99%), ex-Army (81%), other rank (99%), with 50% being 35 years of age or over. DASA calculated that for ex-service personnel on probation, the time between discharge from the armed forces and the start of their current supervision record varied from zero to

47 years, with 49% having received their supervision record within 10 years of leaving and only 6% within a year of leaving. Information on previous cases of supervision records for these individuals was not available. However, DASA also estimated that overall, a male member of the general population aged 18-54 was 12% more likely to have a probation supervision record than a former member of the armed forces. The proportion of the general population who had probation records for criminal damage was 74% higher than for a veteran. On the other hand, DASA determined that the proportion of ex-service personnel subject to probation supervision records for robbery was 37% higher than the proportion of the general population of similar age group.

DASA's report is published in full on their website: www.dasa.mod.uk?pub=veterans_on_probation. A copy of the report will be placed in the Library of the House.

### RAF Brize Norton

**The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox):** I wish to inform the House that repatriation ceremonies for those killed in operational theatres will move from RAF Lyneham to RAF Brize Norton by 1 September 2011.

The Ministry of Defence is committed to recognising the sacrifice made by service personnel on operations and part of that commitment is to ensure there is a formal repatriation ceremony, which is a solemn occasion to provide the appropriate level of dignity and respect when the body returns to the UK.

For the last three and a half years, repatriation ceremonies have taken place at RAF Lyneham. The Ministry of Defence announced in July 2003 that RAF Lyneham will be closing as part of defence estate rationalisation and therefore, following a detailed option study, it has been decided that the most appropriate air base for future repatriation ceremonies would be RAF Brize Norton. This move will take effect by 1 September 2011, before the cessation of flying operations at RAF Lyneham.

I would like to thank RAF Lyneham for its excellent work in supporting the important task of repatriation ceremonies. I am certain that RAF Brize Norton will maintain the standard of solemnity, dignity and respect to our service personnel killed on operations as shown by the personnel at RAF Lyneham. I would also like to record publicly my thanks to the people of Wootton Bassett who have chosen to pay their respects in a unique and special way. It is such spontaneous public support that captures the spirit of the British people.

I am very grateful for those who have participated; such gestures do not go unnoticed by those deployed on operations.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### National Identity Register and ID Card Cancellations

**The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green):** I am today placing in the Library certificates of destruction from contractors confirming compliance with section 3 of the Identity Documents Act 2010. These certificates are accompanied by a covering note that sets out the process and method of delivery of destruction of the national identity register.

I can also confirm that all ID cards ceased to be valid legal documents on 22 January 2011. Cardholders were notified by post to their registered address shortly after enactment of the 2010 Act and border agencies and other interested parties were informed of the cancellation of the scheme.

The cost of decommissioning ID card systems and securely destroying the personal data is, subject to final invoices, £375,000. The cost of terminating and amending National Identity Service contracts with suppliers was £2.253 million. I will also be placing in the Library a copy of a letter sent on 10 February 2011 to the hon. Member for Hackney South and Shoreditch (Meg Hillier) that sets out the breakdown of these costs in more detail.

### Immigration Rules

**The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green):** My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is today laying before Parliament a statement of changes in the immigration rules that will reshape tier 1 of the points-based system (PBS) for migration, tighten the requirements of tier 2 of the PBS, and tighten criteria for indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom. The changes also include a route of entry for family reunion for those granted protection; reduce the re-entry ban for immigration offenders who leave promptly, and facilitate visits by diplomatic and special passport holders from Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. The statement of changes will take effect from 6 April 2011.

This Government are committed to reducing net migration to the UK to the tens of thousands. We review all routes of entry to the UK and implement a range of measures spanning all aspects of the immigration system.

In July 2010 the Government implemented an interim limit on tier 1 general and tier 2 general of the points-based system. These measures were taken to prevent a surge in applications through these routes while the Government consulted on the design of a mechanism to operate a permanent limit on non-EU economic migrants.

The UK Border Agency consulted employers in all sectors and received around 3,200 responses. Those responses helped shape the new tier 1 and 2 policies that formed the basis of the Home Secretary's statement on 23 November and were elaborated upon in our tier 2 statement of intent published on 16 February. I will today place a copy of our tier 1 statement of policy in the House Libraries along with the impact assessment for the tier 1, tier 2 and settlement changes. The policies detailed in the statements will be given effect by the immigration rules laid before Parliament today.

*Tier 1*

Tier 1 is being re-focused to provide a route for migrants that have real value to offer the UK.

In support of the principle that all non-EEA workers should be sponsored by their employer, we will close tier 1 general to new applicants from 6 April. We closed the route to new applicants out of country on 23 December. Transitional measures will be put in place to ensure that tier 1 general migrants already in the UK will be able to extend their stay so long as they meet the requirements in place at the point they entered.

Current tier 1 investor and entrepreneur categories will be reformed to fit the profile of the high-value migrants they are intended for and to ensure that unnecessary bureaucracy does not stand in the way of these important individuals.

Investors will continue to qualify for settlement after five years if they have invested £1 million in the UK. Additionally, those who have invested £10 million will be able to apply for settlement after the investment is in place for two years. Those investing £5 million will be able to apply after the investment is in place for three years. Allowable absences will be increased from 90 to 180 days, enabling international business people to better manage their affairs abroad.

A new prospective entrepreneur visa will be introduced to allow entrepreneurs to come to the UK to secure funding. Switching in to the tier 1 entrepreneur category will be allowed.

For the tier 1 entrepreneur category: the existing £200,000 funding threshold will be reduced to £50,000 where the funding was provided by a venture capitalist, a Government Department or a seed competition. Up to two business partners will be able to use the route if they have equal access to the funding. Finally, successful entrepreneurs who create 10 full-time jobs or have a turnover of £5 million will be able to apply for settlement after three years.

A new category for exceptionally talented migrants working in science or the arts will be introduced in tier 1. The scheme will be administered by competent bodies in the arts and science. We will announce the details of these organisations in due course. We will apply a limit of 1,000 places in the first year. That limit, and the success of the route, will be monitored throughout the first year.

*Tier 2*

The number of certificates of sponsorship available for out of country migrants in tier 2 general will be limited to 20,700 for the year from 6 April.

The route will be reserved for graduate level occupations only. On Monday we announced that we have accepted the Migration Advisory Committee's (MAC) recommendations on graduate level occupations on the current shortage occupation list. I have also asked the MAC to undertake a full review of the shortage occupation list.

In addition the minimum English language requirement for tier 2 general will be raised to B1 on the CEFR scale.

The limit will be operated on a monthly basis. A total of 4,200 places have been reserved for the first month and 1,500 places per month thereafter. When the limit is undersubscribed in a given month the places will be carried over to the next month. Where the limit is over subscribed we will prioritise according to scarcity of skills in the first instance and then according to salary. Scientists, academics and researchers will be afforded an additional premium. A points table will give effect to this prioritisation.

The tier 2 intra-company transfer route will be reshaped and focused on specialists and managers. Transferees will be able to come to the UK for up to five years if they are paid over £40,000, including allowances. Other transferees will be able to enter for up to 12 months if paid £24,000 or more. There will be a 12-month cooling off period at the end of the migrants' stay to prevent individuals being perpetually sent to the UK for 12-month periods.

Transitional arrangements will ensure that the new requirements do not apply to those granted a tier 2 visa before 6 April.

*Settlement*

On settlement the rules change applies a new criminality threshold to settlement applications, requiring all applicants to be clear of unspent convictions and also extends the income criteria that applies to those on a temporary route, so that it also applies when they apply for settlement, and to require such applicants to pass the "Life in the UK" test prior to gaining settlement, subject to some transitional provisions.

*Re-entry bans*

I am also introducing an amendment to the immigration rules relating to the general grounds for refusal. The existing re-entry ban for those previously removed from the UK is being amended to make it clear that where migrants participate in an assisted voluntary return programme or leave otherwise voluntarily, we expect them to do so promptly after being told to leave the UK. Those who voluntarily leave the UK promptly at public expense will have their re-entry ban reduced from five years to two years. Those who continue to delay receive a five-year or 10-year re-entry ban. This addition seeks to bring cases to a conclusion earlier by providing a clear incentive for people to depart from the UK sooner and increase participation in assisted voluntary return programmes.

*Asylum*

There are also changes to the immigration rules in respect of certain family members of refugees and those granted humanitarian protection, where the family relationship arose after the sponsor in the United Kingdom left his or her home country.

*Visit visas*

I have also made provision to enable nationals of Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates who hold a diplomatic passport to be able to come to the United Kingdom for a visit without the need for a visa. This will facilitate travel and close working relations between these passport holders and the United Kingdom.

## JUSTICE

### Prisoner Escort and Custody Services

**The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke):** I am today announcing that the Government have awarded four new contracts for the prisoner escort and custody services to Geo Amey PECS Ltd ( a joint venture between the Geo Group Ltd and Amey UK plc) and Serco Ltd.

This follows a competitive tender conducted in accordance with Public Sector Procurement Directive (2004/8/EC). Geo Amey PECS Ltd and Serco Ltd have offered the best overall bids in terms of quality of service and cost relative to the other bids received and will take over the service from 29 August 2011 for an initial period of seven years.

The award of contracts to Geo Amey PECS Ltd and Serco Ltd enable the MOJ to release significant cost savings, reducing current costs by 20% on current spend.

The scope of services being delivered by Geo Amey PECS Ltd and Serco Ltd include all inter-prison transfers, the movement of prisoners with mental health problems, extradition and cross-border moves. It excludes all category A movements. The final specification incorporates a number of business changes, including improvements to facilitate the operations of the courts.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Independent Monitoring Commission

**The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson):** I have today published and laid before Parliament my sixth annual report on the operation of the agreement between the British and Irish Governments which established the Independent Monitoring Commission (IMC). This report covers the period 18 September 2008 to 17 September 2009.

In line with a commitment made by one of my predecessors, this report also contains the audited accounts of the IMC for the 12-month period ending 31 March 2009.

The report covers the 20th and 21st reports on paramilitary activity. It does not refer to the 22nd report on paramilitary activity as it fell outside the 12-month period under review.

The IMC performs an important role, supporting the transition to a peaceful society and stable and inclusive devolved government in Northern Ireland. I am very grateful to the Commissioners for their valuable contribution and the work they have undertaken over the past year.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Thursday 17 March 2011*

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Solutions for Business Portfolio

**The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Mark Prisk):** The Government confirm that they have simplified the Solutions For Business portfolio. The Solutions for Business portfolio announced in March 2010 contained 32 interventions, designed to help businesses at different stages of their development. Going forward we believe that the portfolio should target only those areas where a Government lead is required, including supporting innovation and helping companies reach international markets.

Ministers have decided to proceed with simplification of the portfolio which will see it streamlined, with 13 products in the new portfolio, with a focus on growth. The details of the products in the new portfolio are being published today, alongside new information to help local enterprise partnerships as they establish their economic priorities.

The 13 products in the new nationally funded portfolio are:

High Growth Coaching
Helping Your Business Grow Internationally
Manufacturing Advisory Service
Designing Demand
Knowledge Transfer Partnerships
Networking for Innovation
Collaborative Research and Development
Grant for Research and Development
Workplace Training, including Apprenticeships
Improving Your Resource Efficiency
Finance for Business
Understanding Finance for Business
Rural Development Programme for England Business Support

The transition to the streamlined Solutions for Business portfolio will take place from April 2011 onwards. This transition will be managed and implemented as contracts for existing products expire and are retendered, to ensure maximum value for money for the taxpayer.

The new nationally funded portfolio is part of a wider package of measures that the Government are delivering to support business growth. For most of those starting out in business for the first time, or looking for straightforward advice and guidance on running their business, the improved businesslink.gov.uk website and start-up hub will be available to provide high quality online support. This will be supplemented by a telephone contact centre for businesses unable to access the internet or who cannot find the information they are looking for online. In addition, where businesses have challenges that cannot be met through the website, access to experienced business mentors will be available through the new volunteering gateway.

A simplified and well-defined national offer creates the opportunity for local businesses to work together and through their local enterprise partnership to identify local solutions to challenges that they face. The Government are supporting this approach by providing good practice information to assist LEPs in meeting their challenges.

### EU Competitiveness Council

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey):** My noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Baroness Wilcox, has today made the following statement.

The EU Competitiveness Council took place in Brussels on 9 and 10 March 2011. Andy Lebrecht, the UK's Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU represented the UK on research issues on 9 March and I represented the UK on internal market and industry issues on 10 March. A summary of those discussions follows.

The main research issues discussed on 9 March were the Commission's Europe 2020 (long-term EU competitiveness) strategy's annual growth survey (from the research perspective); the interim evaluation of the seventh EU research framework programme; and the European innovation union flagship initiative. There was also a lunchtime discussion on the Commission's proposed new "common strategic framework" for future EU research and innovation funding.

On the Commission's annual growth survey, Ministers debated research and innovation priorities to help Europe recover from the economic crisis. The UK emphasised that it was maintaining its science spending and that there should be increased focus on innovation-oriented EU public procurement and on addressing issues regarding access to finance for innovators. The UK also said it planned to monitor the effectiveness of EU research and innovation reforms.

The Council adopted conclusions on the seventh EU research framework programme in response to the independent interim evaluation. The conclusions called for simplification of funding rules, a greater economic impact from EU research investment and examination of the reasons for low participation in certain member states.

On the European innovation union flagship initiative, the Commission reported plans to develop a new innovation performance indicator, a new EU standardisation policy and to look at how EU-wide procurement schemes and a proposed pan-EU venture capital fund could better support innovation.

In the lunchtime discussion on future EU research and innovation funding, the Commission reported plans to introduce a more co-ordinated approach. Member states generally supported the Commission's approach and identified the simplification of existing EU funding rules as a priority. The UK emphasised the importance of scientific excellence when allocating EU funding.

The research any other business items discussed were a report on "The knowledge-based bio-economy towards 2020" conference held in September 2010 and proposals for a framework programme for nuclear research and training activities for 2012 to 2013.

The main internal market and industry issues discussed on 10 March were the Commission's analysis of the results of the public consultation on the Single Market

Act; progress on implementation of the EU services directive; the Council authorisation decision on the EU patent enhanced co-operation process; the Europe 2020 strategy's annual growth survey (from the industry perspective) and the Commission's raw materials initiative. There was also a lunchtime discussion on the Commission's mid-term review of the Small Business Act.

On the Single Market Act, the Commission reported that 770 online responses had been received and that it would be difficult to identify priorities that would meet everyone's concerns. The UK called for an emphasis on growth and that EU single market priorities should be progress on services, on the digital single market and on better regulation. Most member states supported a focus on growth. The Commission concluded that further work was needed to agree priorities with member states.

On the EU patent, the Commission said that it was vital to help EU competitiveness. In discussion, the UK stressed that it saw the EU patent as a package and that it was studying the European Court of Justice opinion on the patent court that had been issued on 8 March. Council legal services confirmed that consideration of the opinion did not prevent agreement on the enhanced co-operation process and 25 member states (including the UK) confirmed their support for the authorisation decision.

In the lunchtime discussion reviewing the Commission's Small Business Act initiative, the UK highlighted the importance of better regulation. In the annual growth survey discussion, the UK emphasised its support for measures supporting growth. The majority of member states stressed the importance of the EU single market and to improve the EU regulatory framework.

The Council also adopted conclusions on the progress of implementation of the EU services directive and on the Commission's raw materials initiative.

There were also internal market and industry any other business items discussed on the internal market information system (IMI); the SOLVIT annual report; the fifth consumer scoreboard; public consultations on collective redress and alternative dispute resolution; the benefits of electronic invoicing for Europe; and on the recommendations of the high-level group on the competitiveness of the European chemical industry.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Local Government Finance

**The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles):** I would like to make a statement on the work of the local government resource review.

The current dependency of councils on central grant allocations makes planning difficult, weakens accountability, and stifles local innovation. In the future, I am keen to move to a radically different system of funding and support for councils that is built on strong incentives, is driven by local decision making and breaks this dependency.

I have therefore set up a review of local government resources that will consider how we can recast the distribution of business rates and formula grant to deliver a more effective income stream for councils. The focus will be to free up as many local authorities as possible from dependency on central Government funding, as well as develop better incentives for local authorities to promote economic growth in their areas and to benefit financially from that growth. The first phase of the review will deliver proposals for reform by July 2011.

The review will consider the way in which local authorities are funded, with a view to giving local authorities greater financial autonomy and strengthening the incentives to support growth in the private sector and regeneration of local economies.

It will look at ways to reduce the reliance of local government on central Government funding, increase local accountability and ensure that the benefits of economic growth are reflected in the resources authorities have.

The review will include consideration of changes to the business rates system, and focus in particular on:

a) the optimum model for incentivising local authorities to promote growth by retaining business rates, while ensuring that all authorities have adequate resources to meet the needs of their communities and to deliver the commitments set out in the spending review;

b) the extent to which these proposals can set local authorities free from dependency on central funding;

c) considering how to fund authorities where locally raised funding would be insufficient to meet budget requirements and control council tax levels, as well as councils who do not collect business rates, such as upper-tier authorities, recognising that some parts of the country are currently more dependent on Government funding;

d) reviewing the scope for greater transparency and localisation of the equalisation process;

e) the position of councils whose business rate yield would be significantly higher than their current spending;

f) how to ensure appropriate protections are in place for business, within a framework of devolving power to the lowest level possible;

g) how to deliver tax increment financing proposals against a context of greater retention of business rate revenues;

h) how various aspects of the business rate system, including business rate revaluation and reliefs, should be treated;

i) examining the scope for further financial freedoms for local authorities, while standing up for and protecting the interests of local taxpayers, and

j) the wider implications of rates retention for related policies, including the work of the Commission on the Funding of Care and Support and the Government's other incentive schemes (the new homes bonus and the commitment to allow communities to keep the business rates for renewable energy projects).

The review will take account of the responses made to the questions in "Local growth: realising every place's potential". It will also conduct extensive engagement with interested parties, including businesses of all sizes, to ensure that all views and perspectives are taken into account. In developing the proposals, the Government are clear that businesses should not be subject to locally imposed increases in the burden of taxation that they do not support.

Following the announcement at the spending review and through introduction of the Welfare Reform Bill that Government will localise council tax benefit, the review will also consider the design of the new scheme (to be launched in 2013-14) and what flexibilities local authorities should have to help keep overall council tax levels down.

The first phase of review will conclude by July 2011, followed by the necessary steps to implement the concluded reforms.

The second phase of the local government resource review will commence in April 2011 and will focus on community budgets. It will be taken forward in parallel with the continued roll-out of these budgets. Detailed terms of reference will be published shortly.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Fixed-term Parliaments Bill

**The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr Mark Harper):** The Government have been engaged in discussions with the parties in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland about the potential coincidence of elections in May 2015.

The Government have tabled amendments to the Fixed-term Parliaments Bill to implement the agreement we have reached with the Scottish Parliament and National Assembly for Wales. Following the discussions, motions were passed in the Scottish Parliament on 3 March and in the Welsh Assembly on 16 March calling on the UK Government to bring forward provision to defer the 2015 Scottish and Welsh general elections until 5 May 2016 in order to avoid the two sets of elections coinciding.

The amendment will provide that the normal rules pertaining to general elections to the Scottish Parliament and National Assembly for Wales apply to the deferred polls.

The Government will also carry out a detailed assessment of what the implications would be of the two sets of elections coinciding at a later date. Then in the light of this we will consider whether to conduct a public consultation in Scotland and Wales on whether the Parliament and Assembly terms should permanently be extended to five years.

Following correspondence with parties in Northern Ireland on this issue, Northern Ireland Office Ministers have concluded that it would be better to await the outcome of the combined polls scheduled for May 2011 before taking a decision on whether special provision would be needed for Northern Ireland.

## EDUCATION

### Secondary School Application/Offers 2011

**The Minister of State, Department for Education (Mr Nick Gibb):** Today we are publishing validated data, based on returns from 151 local authorities showing that across the country 84.6% of families received an offer at their first-preference secondary school—compared with 83.2% last year. A further 8.1% of families were offered a place at their second-preference school and 95.6% were offered a place at one of their three preferred schools. In total, 97.2% of families were offered a place at one of their preferred schools. I am placing a copy of these data in the Library of the House.

There is considerable variation in these figures nationally. Outside London, more than 87.8% of parents were offered a place at their first-preference school. The north-east had the highest percentage of first-preference offers with 94.3% and west midlands the lowest with 81.1%. For Greater London, this figure is 66.2%. However across London, 94% of families have been offered a place at one of their chosen schools.

Parents have the right of appeal against any application that has been turned down; and over the summer, local authorities and schools will be re-allocating places where others have moved address or chosen a different route of education for their child.

We are committed to improving the supply of high-quality school places, to put our trust back in schools and to support them in raising standards for all our children. Through the White Paper, "The Importance of Teaching", we announced our intention to review the school admissions framework, with a view to delivering a simpler, more streamlined admissions and appeals code. We are determined to remove unnecessary burdens on schools while retaining accountability, transparency and fairness. We shall shortly be consulting on slimmer, less bureaucratic admission and appeals codes.

Our aim is to create an education system where every school is a good school, where discipline and attainment are principles for all; where teachers have the confidence to teach the knowledge and concepts that young people need to thrive in a global economy. Only when every school is a good school will we be able to remove the anxiety parents feel when selecting a school for their children. These figures show that too few parents, especially in London, have access to good school places, with one in six parents failing to secure their first preference.

We will continue our focus on improving performance in underperforming schools. The Secretary of State recently wrote to all local authorities asking them to develop school improvement plans for those schools below the floor standards. These plans will help identify the action needed to turn around those schools that are failing to provide a high quality of education. Schools will be supported to improve but if they do not do so quickly, we will look to transform them through conversion to academy status, under strong sponsors with a proven record in turning around underperformance. We will also continue our drive to increase the number of academies and to open more free schools to respond to demand.

This written ministerial statement contains Government and policy statements in relation to the statistical release "Secondary school applications and offers 2011" which can be viewed on the DFE research and statistics gateway. This statistical release was produced by officials working under the direction of Government statisticians in accordance with the code of practice for official statistics and was released at 9.30 am today.

The Information as to Provision of Education (England) Regulations 2008 require local authorities to submit data to the Department for Education on how many families received an offer of a place at one of their preferred secondary schools. This year on 1 March, almost 513,000 families were advised at which secondary school their child was being offered a place.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Independent Panel on Forestry

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman):** Further to my statement on 17 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 1155, I have today announced that the right Rev. James Jones, Bishop of Liverpool, has agreed to chair an independent panel to advise me on the future direction of forestry and woodland policy in England and on the role of the Forestry Commission in implementing policy. The members of the panel are:

Shireen Chambers (Institute of Chartered Foresters)
Dr Mike Clarke (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds)
Tom Franklin (Ramblers)
Stuart Goodall (Confederation of Forest Industries)
Stephanie Hilborne QBE (Wildlife Trusts)
Sue Holden (Woodland Trust)
Dr Alan Knight QBE (Single Planet Living)
Dame Fiona Reynolds (National Trust)
Sir Harry Studholme (Forestry Commissioner)
John Varley (Clinton Devon Estates)
William Worsley (Country Land and Business Association)

The members of the panel bring a wide range of interests and expertise covering the environmental, social and economic aspects of forestry. I have published the panel's terms of reference on the DEFRA website (www.defra.gov.uk/rural/forestry/).

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Foreign Affairs Council and General Affairs Council

**The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington):** The Foreign Affairs Council and General Affairs Council will meet in Brussels on 21 March. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will attend the Foreign Affairs Council. I will attend the General Affairs Council.

Foreign Affairs Council (FAC)

*Japan*

Japan is not currently on the agenda for the FAC, and the constantly evolving situation makes it difficult to predict the nature of a possible discussion. But we would expect Ministers to review the EU's response to the devastating earthquake and tsunami, and to take stock of the latest developments on the nuclear issue. The EU's response so far has been summarised in the press release below.

http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/11/166&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en

*EU Southern Neighbourhood*

On Libya, Ministers will want to take stock following the extraordinary European Council of 11 March, at which EU leaders called on Gaddafi to "relinquish power immediately" as his regime had lost all legitimacy and was no longer an interlocutor for the EU. As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister stressed to Parliament in his statement of 14 March, *Official Report*, columns 25-27 (see link below), HMG's position is that Europe must seize this opportunity to support ordinary people in north Africa and across the middle east in their aspirations for a more open and democratic form of government. The EU now needs to follow through on its declaration of 11 March with a real and credible offer to these countries, based around the massive economic opportunities which lie in greater trade and co-operation with Europe. Discussion of Libya and other specific country issues will depend on events in the next few days.

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=PressS&id=564995382

*Sahel*

The Sahel is one of the poorest regions of the world. It faces a number of challenges to its security and development simultaneously, including terrorism and frequent food shortages. At the FAC, Ministers are expected to review proposals for an EU strategy to deal with the Sahel's security and development needs in a coherent way. The proposals are particularly important given recent instability in the region.

*Somalia*

Ministers should be asked to agree conclusions on Somalia, the first since July 2009. Discussion is expected to focus on handling of the planned end of the transitional period in August 2011 and on tackling piracy. We want to see a clear statement that there can be no extension of the Transitional Federal Institutions beyond August without reform to make them more representative and legitimate in the eyes of the Somali people. We will look to emphasise the importance of tackling the causes of piracy on land and continue to push for the European External Action Service to play a leading role in co-ordinating donor activity in those regions most affected by piracy, including in Puntland.

*Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)*

We expect conclusions to be adopted on BiH on proposals to reinforce the EU's presence there. We are supportive of the package in which there was broad agreement at the February FAC. The conclusions should also address the political situation in BiH, where a Government is yet to be formed nearly six months after elections.

*Belarus*

Ministers are due to discuss the political and human rights situation in Belarus. We hope the discussion will focus on what further measures the EU can take to apply political pressure on the regime to release all political prisoners and cease the ongoing repression of human rights defenders.

*Serbia/Kosovo*

Baroness Ashton will update Ministers on the EU-facilitated dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade. Following appointment of the new Kosovo Government on 22 February, the first meeting of the dialogue took place in Brussels on 8-9 March. We expect EU member states to give Baroness Ashton strong support for her efforts on the dialogue as a way of building co-operation between Kosovo and Serbia and of helping both countries make progress towards the EU.

*Iran human rights*

We seek conclusions which pave the way towards EU targeted measures on Iran, including a travel ban and asset freeze on human rights offenders; and which develop the EU's human rights dialogue with Iranian civil society.

*Middle East Peace Process*

Baroness Ashton will report on the 2 March Quartet envoys' meeting and provide an update on work being done in preparation for the April meeting of Quartet principals. The UK will continue to make clear that the peace process must not become a casualty of uncertainty in the region, that it is too important to fail or falter, and that we must strive for a breakthrough this year. The UK has set out views on this with France and Germany in our explanation of vote on the draft UNSCR on settlement; see link below:

http://ukun.fco.gov.uk/en/news/?view=News&id=555290382

We also expect Baroness Ashton to update on progress in implementing her proposal for EU support to Gaza.

GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL (GAC)

*European Councils*

Ministers will review follow-up to the extraordinary European Council of 11 March, which discussed the EU's response to the current crisis in Libya and the southern neighbourhood. The declaration made by the Council on 11 March can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/119780.pdf

In addition to the Prime Minister's statement of 14 March (see earlier link), an FCO report of the European Council can be found at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=564968482

Ministers will also discuss preparation for the spring European Council on 24 March. The current draft agenda includes:

> the southern neighbourhood and EU action to promote stability in the region (see comments on FAC);
>
> legislative proposals for economic governance in the Eurozone;
>
> European Council decision amending article 136 of the treaty on the functioning of the European Union and intergovernmental arrangements setting up the European Stability Mechanism. These were agreed at the December European Council, see link:
>
> http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/118578.pdf

## Foreign Affairs Council/Foreign Ministers (Informal Meeting)

**The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington):** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary attended an informal meeting of EU Foreign Ministers on 10 March, ahead of the extraordinary European Council meeting of 11 March attended by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister.

Baroness Ashton chaired the meeting. Her remarks ahead of the meeting can be found at the link below.

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/eudocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/119734.pdf

Discussion focused on action to increase pressure on the Libyan regime and the draft declaration by the European Council. The Foreign Secretary and others called for the stepping-up of pressure, to include consideration of a no-fly zone, based on a proper legal base, regional support and a demonstrable need. Many Ministers took the opportunity to comment on the draft Council declaration. Baroness Ashton conveyed these comments to President van Rompuy and EU Heads of Government at their meeting the following day.

The Foreign Secretary welcomed the Commission's and External Action Service's communication on the EU's policy on the southern neighbourhood (see link below). In particular, he noted that the communication expressed the right level of ambition, and brought clarity as to what conditionality might mean in practice. He stressed the EU's new offer to the region should be based on market access and progress towards political reforms.

http://eeas.europa.eu/euromed/docs/com2011_200_en.pdf#page=2

An FCO report of the meeting, including comments by the Foreign Secretary, can be found at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=563517982

*Gymnich*

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary attended the Gymnich informal meeting of EU Foreign Ministers of 11-12 March. The meeting was co-hosted by Hungarian Foreign Minister Martonyi (EU Presidency) and Baroness Ashton. Discussions focused on Libya, north Africa and the middle east, including a substantive session on these issues with Turkey, Croatia, Iceland, Macedonia and Montenegro. Ministers reviewed the Council's declaration agreed the day before.

Additionally, there were brief discussions of other countries in the middle east and north Africa. There was broad support for the EU efforts to aid transition in Egypt and Tunisia.

Baroness Ashton and Commissioner Fule (enlargement/neighbourhood) briefed on the joint communication on southern neighbourhood policy (link included in FAC informal report above).

Baroness Ashton's concluding remarks can be found at:

http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/11/171&format=TML&aged=0&language=en&guiLanguage=en.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Control Order Powers

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May):** Section 14(1) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (the 2005 Act) requires the Secretary of State to report to Parliament as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of every relevant three-month period on the exercise of the control order powers during that period.

The level of information provided will always be subject to slight variations based on operational advice.

*The future of the control order regime*

On 26 January 2011 I made a statement to Parliament setting out the Government's intention to replace control orders with a less intrusive and more targeted regime of terrorism prevention and investigation measures. Legislation to achieve this will be introduced in due course. Additional resources for covert investigative techniques will be made available to complement the new system. The full control order regime will continue to operate until the replacement measures are in force. I have now renewed the powers in the 2005 Act until 31 December 2011, following the debates in the House of Commons on 2 March and in the House of Lords on 8 March.

*The exercise of the control order powers in the last quarter*

As explained in previous quarterly statements, control order obligations are tailored to the individual concerned and are based on the terrorism-related risk that individual poses. Each control order is kept under regular review to ensure that the obligations remain necessary and proportionate. The Home Office continues to hold control order review groups (CORGs) every quarter, with representation from law enforcement and intelligence agencies, to keep the obligations in every control order under regular and formal review and to facilitate a review of appropriate exit strategies. During the reporting period, no CORGs were held in relation to the orders in force at the time. This is because meetings were held just before, and are due to be held just after, the reporting period. Other meetings were held on an ad hoc basis as specific issues arose.

During the period 11 December 2010 to 10 March 2011, two non-derogating control orders were made, with the permission of the court, and served. One non-derogating control order was made, with the permission of the court, and revoked without ever being served following the identification of an administrative error. A further non-derogating control order was made in respect of the same individual, with the permission of the court, but was not served during the reporting period. Two control orders have been renewed in accordance with section 2(6) of the 2005 Act in this reporting period.

In total, as of 10 March, there were 10 control orders in force, all of which were in respect of British citizens. All of these control orders were non-derogating. Three individuals subject to a control order were living in the Metropolitan Police Service area; the remaining individuals were living in other police force areas.

One set of criminal proceedings for breach of a control order was concluded during this reporting period following a CPS decision that prosecution was no longer in the public interest.

During this reporting period, 53 modifications of control order obligations were made; 21 requests to modify control order obligations were refused.

Section 10(1) of the 2005 Act provides a right of appeal against a decision by the Secretary of State to renew a non-derogating control order or to modify an obligation imposed by a non-derogating control order without consent. No appeals have been lodged with the High Court during this reporting period under section 10(1) of the 2005 Act. A right of appeal is also provided by section 10(3) of the 2005 Act against a decision by the Secretary of State to refuse a request by a controlled person to revoke their order or to modify any obligation under their order. During this reporting period two appeals were lodged with the High Court under section 10(3) of the 2005 Act. In one of these appeals, an interlocutory application for an injunction was also made, seeking an order staying the effect of the modification until a full hearing had taken place and judgment handed down.

One court order was made in relation to proceedings under section 10(1) of the 2005 Act during this reporting period. On 8 March 2011 the court dismissed BH's appeal against the renewal of his control order but allowed it in so far as it related to obligations imposed by the order. The obligations were modified by agreement between the parties and annexed to the court order.

On 10 March 2011 an oral judgment was handed down in relation to the injunction application referred to above. The injunction was refused and directions were set for an expedited appeal.

## Equality Act 2010: Public Sector Equality Duty

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May):** The Equality Act 2010 includes a new single public sector Equality Duty which will replace the existing race, disability and gender equality duties and will extend to also cover gender reassignment in full, age, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

The Act contains a power enabling a Minister of the Crown to make regulations imposing specific duties on public bodies listed in parts 1 (general) and 4 (cross-border authorities) of schedule 19 to the Act to enable them to carry out the Equality Duty more effectively. Following a public consultation on draft specific duties regulations which ran from August to November last year, revised draft regulations were published alongside the Government's response to the consultation on the Government Equalities Office website on 12 January 2011.

Since then, we have considered the draft regulations further in the light of our policy objective of ensuring that public bodies consider equality when carrying out their functions without imposing unnecessary burdens and bureaucracy. As a result, we think there is room to do more to strip out unnecessary process requirements. Today, we are publishing a policy review paper seeking views on new draft specific duties regulations. Our proposals are designed to deliver a clear focus on transparency, freeing up public bodies to take responsibility for their own performance in delivering equality improvements and to publish the right information so that the public can hold them to account. This approach will be better for equality because it will focus on the delivery of results, not the performance of bureaucratic processes.

The new general Equality Duty will come into force on 5 April. For the period from 5 April until the new specific duties are in place, public bodies will still need to comply with the general Equality Duty.

We welcome comments on the new draft regulations from public bodies, equality organisations, users of public services, businesses which work with public organisations and other interested parties. Comments should be submitted to the Government Equalities Office by 21 April 2011.

The policy review paper, including the draft regulations, is available on the Government Equalities Office website: www.equalities.gov.uk. Copies are also being placed in the Library of the House. Comments can be sent to: specificduties@geo.gsi.gov.uk

### Terrorism Stop and Search Powers

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May):** I announced on 26 January the findings from my review of counter-terrorism and security powers. This included a recommendation that the Government consider whether the police needed the new counter-terrorism stop and search power more quickly than the Protection of Freedoms Bill would allow. On 1 March 2011 I announced that, given the current threat environment, I had concluded that the police do need the powers more quickly than the Bill would allow.

The most appropriate way of meeting the legal and operational requirements concerning the counter-terrorism stop and search powers exercisable without reasonable suspicion is to make a remedial order under section 10 of the Human Rights Act 1998 to make immediate changes to the legislation. I therefore made a remedial order concerning the Terrorism Act 2000 on 16 March and that order has today been laid before Parliament. The new powers contained in that order are supported by a robust statutory code of practice. I have used the urgency procedure provided by paragraph 2(b) of schedule 2 to the Human Rights Act to make the remedial order because I have concluded that having these powers available to the police now is in the interests of national security and is needed to protect the public from a risk of terrorism.

The remedial order replaces sections 44 to 47 of the Terrorism Act 2000 with a more targeted and proportionate power. The provisions in the order will cease to have effect on the coming into force of the similar provisions in the Protection of Freedoms Bill—in other words, the order makes temporary provision and Parliament will have the opportunity to fully scrutinise the replacement powers in the usual way during the passage of the Protection of Freedoms Bill. The order removes the incompatibility of sections 44 to 46 of the Terrorism Act 2000 with the European convention of human rights in the light of the European Court of Human Rights' judgment in the case of Gillan and Quinton which became final in June 2010.

The making of a remedial order using the urgency procedure means that it will come into force on 18 March. It will cease to have effect if both Houses have not approved the order by resolution within 120 days of the remedial order being made (the calculation of "days" for this purpose does not include any time during which Parliament is dissolved or prorogued, or both Houses are adjourned for more than four days).

The decision to make a remedial order means that the discredited, ineffective and unfair "no suspicion" stop and search powers provided by sections 44 to 47 of the Terrorism Act 2000 are, in effect, replaced by a much more targeted and proportionate power. The use of an urgent remedial order is a necessary and sensible step to ensure that the police have the necessary powers in place to continue to protect the public from a risk of terrorism.

## JUSTICE

### Her Majesty's Land Registry

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly):** My right hon. Friend the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice, Lord McNally, has made the following written ministerial statement:

Land Registry has a new vision: "Putting the customer, quality and innovation at the heart of land registration services".

To meet this vision, the following strategic objectives have been adopted with key performance indicators:

*Customer*

To identify, anticipate and satisfy customer needs by constantly refining and developing products, services and channels.

Customer satisfaction: Target 95%.

Develop and implement the capability to:

Electronically deliver the top-six dealing transactions.

View the index map online.

Increase the number of services available on business gateway.

Improve intuitive online navigation.

External e-channel availability: Target better than 99%.

Increase add value revenue by at least 25% with a minimum net contribution of 14%.

*Quality*

To continually improve operational delivery in order to drive efficiencies, quality and value.

Percentage of registrations processed within 12 working days: Target 80%.

Percentage of completed registrations that meet specified internal quality standards relating to key areas: Target 97%.

Percentage of completed registrations requiring correction: Target less than 1.5%.

Percentage of successful changes applied to electronic services: Target 95%.

*Innovation*

To build a flexible and efficient organisation to enable us to respond to market fluctuations and changing customer needs and to identify and implement opportunities for Land Registry.

Introduce performance and innovation continuous improvement methodology into two operational offices and extend use in human resources directorate by 31 March 2012.

Complete phase 1 of accelerated transformation programme by 31 December 2011.

Embed new values and behaviours into individual performance management and recruitment processes by 31 March 2012.

Percentage of staff positively engaged with Land Registry: Target 50%.

*Finance*

To meet all financial and efficiency targets while funding our future work investment programmes.

Percentage return on average capital employed: Target 3.5%.

Cost per unit in cash terms (real terms): Target £29.46 (£18.34).

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Friday 18 March 2011*

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Flexible Working

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey):** I am announcing today that I intend to repeal shortly the regulations on extending the right to request flexible working to parents of 17-year-olds that were laid before Parliament on 16 December 2010 and that were due to come into force on the 6 April 2011.

The Government remain committed to extending the right to request flexible working to all employees in due course. We will consult on this extension later in the spring.

The Government are constantly listening to the views of all stakeholders including business, and it has recently become clear that this small extension to the flexible working regulations could be an unhelpful complication at this important point in the UK's economic recovery when employers need to focus on growth and creating jobs. We therefore intend to repeal these regulations, which will also avoid multiple changes to the flexible working regulations over the coming years.

## DEFENCE

### Parliamentary Oral Question (Correction)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan):** I regret to inform the House that an answer I gave in response to a supplementary question about nuclear test veterans from the hon. Member for Scunthorpe (Nic Dakin) during Defence oral questions on 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 573, could have been misleading. I said:

> "the courts have found there is no causal link whatever between many of the disabilities and illnesses suffered and any exposure to radiation".

This statement could have been open to interpretation and I wrote to the hon. Member for Scunthorpe in response to a letter from him to clarify the position on 23 February. I also mentioned this to him when we met on 1 March. The position is that the Court of Appeal judgment in the Atomic Veterans Group litigation granted the Ministry of Defence's appeal on limitation, not on causation. However, as part of this judgment, the Court said that the claimants have produced no evidence which begins to satisfy those usual causation requirements and that the general merits of the claims were extremely weak.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Commission on a Bill of Rights

**The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr Mark Harper):** The Government have established an independent Commission to investigate the creation of a UK Bill of Rights, fulfilling a commitment made in our programme for government. The Commission will explore a range of issues surrounding human rights law in the UK and will also play an advisory role on our continuing work to press for reform of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

The UK will be pressing for significant reform of the European Court of Human Rights, building on the reform process underway in the lead up to our Chairmanship of the Council of Europe later this year. We will be pressing in particular to reinforce the principle that states rather than the European Court of Human Rights have the primary responsibility for protecting convention rights.

The Commission will be chaired by Sir Leigh Lewis KCB, a former permanent secretary at the Department for Work and Pensions with a long career in public service. He will be joined on the Commission by: Jonathan Fisher QC, Martin Howe QC, Baroness Kennedy of the Shaws QC, Lord Lester of Herne Hill QC, Philippe Sands QC, Anthony Speaight QC, Professor Sir David Edward QC and Dr Michael Pinto-Duschinsky.

The terms of reference for the Commission are:

> The Commission will investigate the creation of a UK Bill of Rights that incorporates and builds on all our obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights, ensures that these rights continue to be enshrined in UK law, and protects and extend our liberties. It will examine the operation and implementation of these obligations, and consider ways to promote a better understanding of the true scope of these obligations and liberties. It should provide interim advice to the Government on the ongoing Interlaken process to reform the Strasbourg Court ahead of and following the UK's Chairmanship of the Council of Europe. It should consult, including with the public, judiciary and devolved Administrations and legislatures, and aim to report no later than by the end of 2012".

The Commission members have, between them, extensive legal expertise and experience, and we expect the Commission to take into account a broad range of views as it fulfils its remit. In addition, an advisory panel will be established to provide advice and expertise to the Commission on issues arising in relation to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Commission will report jointly to the Deputy Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Justice. The Commission will be supported in its work by a small secretariat of civil servants.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Feed-in Tariffs (Review)

**The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Gregory Barker):** I am today announcing a consultation as part of the fast-track review of feed-in tariffs (FITs) for small scale low-carbon electricity generation.

On 7 February, I announced the start of the first comprehensive review of the FITs scheme for small scale low-carbon electricity generation which would:

> assess all aspects of the scheme including tariff levels, administration and eligibility of technologies;
>
> be completed by the end of the year, with tariffs remaining unchanged until April 2012 (unless the review reveals a need for greater urgency);
>
> fast-track consideration of large scale solar projects (over 50kW) with a view to making any resulting changes to tariffs

as soon as practical, subject to consultation and parliamentary scrutiny as required by the Energy Act 2008; and

alongside the fast-track review of large scale solar PV, undertake a short study into the take-up of FITs for farm-based anaerobic digestion plants.

The document published today deals with the last two of these points, and seeks views on proposals to changes tariffs for solar photovoltaic (PV) installations larger than 50 kilowatts and farm-scale anaerobic digestion (AD) of up to 500 kilowatts. The proposed new bands and tariffs are as follows:

For large PV installations:

>50kW - ≤150kW: 19p/kWh

>150kW - ≤250kW: 15p/kWh

>250kW - ≤5MW: 8.5p/kWh

And for farm-scale AD installations:

≤250kW: 14p/kWh

>250 - ≤500kW: 13p/kWh

The FITs scheme has been a success since its launch in April 2010 with over 27,000 FITs installations registered to date, of which 92% are domestic-scale solar PV generators, which are not affected by the proposed changes in the fast-track review. The FITs scheme rewards generators for the green electricity they produce, use and sell back to the grid. We want to protect the diversity of the FITs scheme, and ensure that it benefits homes, small businesses and communities, and the full range of innovative technologies.

In these financially challenging times, it is even more important that we get the balance of the scheme right. The projections for take-up of FITs published by the previous Government failed to anticipate any large or small scale non-domestic solar PV installations until 2013. These projections have clearly proved to be flawed. Current market indications are that a rapid increase in the number of larger solar installations entering the scheme could distort funding for smaller and domestic scale installations as well as other technologies. Conversely the current tariff levels have failed to spur a meaningful uptake for anaerobic digestion which means that this technology is not fulfilling its potential contribution to our energy mix.

Decentralised renewables are a vital part of green growth and the FITs scheme has proved highly successful at stimulating growth, driving innovation, creating jobs and cutting carbon. We must act now to ensure that the scheme continues to deliver and we are able to achieve both our spending review commitment to improving the efficiency of the scheme, which will deliver £40 million of savings (around 10%) in 2014-15, as well as ensuring that the benefits of a faster fall in technology costs are shared as widely as possible rather than captured in higher returns for a small number of individual investors.

We are seeking views on proposed tariffs until 6 May 2011. The Government will not act retrospectively and any changes to generation tariffs implemented as a result of the review will only affect new entrants into the FITs scheme. Installations which are already accredited for FITs at the time will not be affected. We propose that these changes take effect from 1 August 2011, subject to the outcome of this consultation and parliamentary scrutiny.

We are also seeking views on the scope of the comprehensive review by 12 April 2011.

The consultation document can be accessed at: www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/fit_review/fit_review.aspx.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### UK Marine Policy Statement

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman):** The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs and the devolved Administrations are publishing the UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS). I am placing copies in the House Libraries.

The MPS forms a key element of the coalition Government's programme for implementing the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (the Act). The MPS is UK-wide and has been developed jointly with officials in the devolved Administrations. The Act provides for the introduction of marine planning in UK waters for the first time and the MPS is the first step in this new marine planning system.

The MPS is defined by the requirements placed on it by the Act with the overall aim of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. The MPS is the decision-making framework for the UK marine area and guides the development of marine plans and marine licensing decisions across the UK. The aim of the MPS is to ensure the necessary consistency and coherence across the UK in the way we manage our seas, while providing the flexibility for marine plans to reflect the characteristics and needs of different marine areas. The MPS therefore covers all major activities and sectors in our seas from renewable energy to nature conservation and from fishing to tourism. It sets the policy context and direction in each of these areas and the considerations that must be given to each activity in the development of marine plans or when decisions that may affect the marine area are taken. By bringing together the wealth of policy objectives for the marine area, and by setting out in one place the breadth of the legislation that exists for the marine environment, the MPS will provide clarity for regulators, developers and all those with an interest in our marine environment, a clarity which will be built on with the development and adoption of marine plans.

The draft MPS was laid in Parliament on 21 July 2010 and the final version takes on board comments made during parliamentary scrutiny. In accordance with the Act, we have produced a document summarising the differences between the draft consultation version of the MPS and the final version being published today.

The MPS was developed with an appraisal of sustainability (incorporating a strategic environmental assessment). A post-adoption statement has been published in accordance with the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) directive explaining how sustainability considerations have been integrated into the MPS. In addition to these documents, the MPS is supported by a habitats regulations assessment, an equality impact assessment screening report and an impact assessment. The documents have taken into account comments from stakeholders, especially during public consultation last year.

Published copies of the MPS, the post-adoption statement and the document summarising the differences between the draft and final versions of the MPS will be placed in the House Libraries. Electronic copies of these documents are available of the official documents website: http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/. The other documents can be found on the DEFRA website: www.defra.gov.uk.

My Department also published a description of the marine planning system for England. This document, together with the MPS, represents a package of action that the Government are taking to improve the management of our seas.

## HEALTH

### NHS Access

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Anne Milton):** I am today publishing the Government's response to the public consultation on access to the national health service by foreign nationals that was issued by the previous Administration before the election.

The NHS is built on the principle that it provides a comprehensive service, based on clinical need, not the ability to pay. However, it is not free of charge to all comers. Legislation dating back to 1977 permits persons who are not ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom to be charged for NHS services and subsequent regulations, first introduced in 1982, impose a charging regime in respect of hospital treatment.

The charging regime provides for some categories of non-residents to be exempt from charges, and international agreements provide reciprocal healthcare that benefits visitors from and to participant countries. It also takes full account of humanitarian obligations in the provision of healthcare, in particular ensuring that the emergency medical needs of any person are treated irrespective of their status or ability to pay.

The consultation was based on a limited review of access and charging policy. After considering the responses we received the Government have decided to take forward their main proposals, specifically to lay the new consolidated charging regulations including the specific changes that were consulted on:

> extend the time UK residents can spend abroad without losing automatic entitlement to free hospital treatment from three months to six months;
>
> allow failed asylum seekers who are on UK Border Agency support schemes for families or because there is a barrier to their immediate return, to continue to receive free hospital treatment (but retain charges for those other failed asylum seekers who refuse to return home); and
>
> guarantee the provision of free hospital treatment for unaccompanied children while under local authority care.

In addition, we are taking this opportunity to introduce a limited term exemption for Olympic and Paralympic games competitors and officials in line with a commitment made in our successful 2005 bid, and to amend the trigger for exempting charges for pandemic flu treatment to protect public health.

We also support the Home Office's plan to introduce proportionate immigration sanctions on overseas visitors who refuse to pay appropriate charges for treatment provided. The Department will therefore introduce measures to enable data-sharing with the Home Office to support this while guaranteeing necessary data privacy standards.

However, it is increasingly clear that the overall charging regime is neither balanced nor efficient. Overall entitlement to free healthcare, through residency or other qualifying exemptions is often more generous to visitors and short-term residents than is reciprocated for UK citizens seeking treatment in many other countries. Charging regulations only cover hospital treatment, so visitors may receive free primary care and other non-hospital based healthcare services. Although hospitals have a statutory duty to enforce the regulations, effective enforcement by hospitals appears to vary considerably.

For these reasons we believe that a further fundamental review of the current policy is needed. The review will include:

> qualifying residency criteria for free treatment;
>
> the full range of other current criteria that exempt particular services or visitors from charges for their treatment;
>
> whether visitors should be charged for GP services and other NHS services outside of hospitals;
>
> establishing more effective and efficient processes across the NHS to screen for eligibility and to make and recover charges; and
>
> whether to introduce a requirement for health insurance tied to visas.

Access for European Union residents is determined by separate EU regulations. The review will not consider changes to these regulations.

The review will respect the NHS's core values and its obligations to provide urgent treatment, as well as the need to protect public health and observe international agreements. Denying necessary access to any person or group is not an option. We will consider the full benefits and costs of introducing new charges including risks of deterred or delayed treatment and any other societal costs. It will be informed by exploring equivalent policies in other health economies and we will seek views and input from NHS managers and other interested parties. The scope of options is deliberately wide-ranging and we do not want to rule individual changes in or out pending this further evaluation. The proposals will be the subject of a full public consultation on completion of the review.

The Government's response to the consultation has been placed in the Library. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the printed Paper Office.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### "Refusing Entry or Stay to NHS Debtors"

**The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green):** I have today published a report detailing the Government's response to the public consultation "Refusing entry or stay to NHS debtors" conducted by the UK Border Agency between February and June last year. The consultation sought views on a proposal to amend the UK's immigration rules so that those subject to immigration control who fail to pay treatment charges made by the national health service under the relevant charging regulations for overseas visitors will normally be refused further leave to enter or remain. It also covered associated arrangements for the national health service to notify the UK Border Agency of relevant non-payments. The Under-Secretary of State for Health, my hon. Friend the Member for Guildford (Anne Milton), who is responsible for public health, is also publishing today a consultation report detailing the response to a separate Department of Health public consultation on changes to the NHS charging regulations in England.

We have carefully considered the response to the UK Border Agency consultation, which was generally supportive of the proposals, and have decided to implement the proposed change to the immigration rules in October this year. Those who fail to discharge debts to the NHS of or in excess of £1,000 will normally be refused by the UK Border Agency if they seek further permission to enter or remain in the country.

Copies of the response document will be placed in the Library of the House.

## JUSTICE

### Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Crispin Blunt):** The Government will commence section 2(1)(d) of the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007. The Act, the majority of which came into force on 6 April 2008, creates an offence whereby an organisation can be found guilty of corporate manslaughter if the way in which its activities are managed or organised causes a death and this amounts to a gross breach of a relevant duty of care to the deceased.

Section 2(1)(d) of the Act makes the duty of care that a custody provider owes to certain persons who are detained a relevant duty of care for the purpose of the offence. However, its implementation was delayed to allow custody providers time to ensure they were compliant with the Act. Those custody providers subject to the Act have indicated that they are ready for this provision to be commenced, and the Government intend to do this by the summer.

The Act allows the Secretary of State to add further categories of persons in custody or detention to the list of those to whom a relevant duty of care is owed by reason of section 2(1)(d). The Secretary of State intends to extend the Act to cover persons detained in Ministry of Defence service custody premises and in UK Border Agency facilities not already covered by the Act at the same time as commencing the existing custody provisions.

Both the commencement and extension orders will be subject to an affirmative resolution of each House of Parliament.

## TRANSPORT

### Urban Congestion Performance Fund

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Norman Baker):** I am today announcing the final tranche of payments from the Urban Congestion Performance Fund that will see the 10 largest urban areas in England receive a further £3.75 million to address the causes of urban congestion.

These payments are the final payments made through the fund, which is linked to the local congestion targets set by the 10 largest urban areas in England in their local transport plans.

The £3.75 million payment will be shared between the participating areas as below:

| *Urban Area* | *Sum to be paid via Tranche 4* |
|---|---:|
| London | £1,125,000 |
| Greater Manchester | £470,364 |
| West Midlands | £438,727 |
| West Yorkshire | £382,600 |
| South Yorkshire | £300,752 |
| Tyne & Wear | £252,049 |
| Merseyside | £320,892 |
| Nottingham | £155,890 |
| West of England (Bristol) | £154,869 |
| Leicester | £148,857 |
| Total | £3,750,000 |

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Monday 21 March 2011*

## CABINET OFFICE

### Big Society Bank

**The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr Nick Hurd):** On 14 February, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and I published a strategy to grow the social investment market, giving charities and social enterprises access to new capital to help them to increase their impact. The strategy explained the central role of the big society bank as a cornerstone of the market, acting as both a champion and wholesale provider of capital.

In February we also announced that we would work with leading social investment experts to develop a proposal for the establishment of the big society bank as an independent private sector organisation. Since then, we have been engaging with the social investment sector, and we are pleased with the ideas coming forward. Today I would like to update the House on the next steps.

As we announced in February, Sir Ronald Cohen, former chair of the social investment taskforce, and Nick O'Donohoe, former global head of research at JP Morgan, are taking the lead on developing a proposal for a big society bank. They are engaging with the sector, and we expect that they will present their proposal to Government within the next few weeks. At that point, we expect to make an in-principle decision about whether the organisation they are proposing to establish could be the recipient of unclaimed assets from dormant accounts, subject to further development work and state aid approval. If the decision is made to go ahead, detailed set up work for the big society bank would then be able to commence, including recruitment of its chair and board.

By making this statement today we want to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to feed in comments on the development of the proposal, or on our approach more generally. Separately, we are currently working to secure the state aid approvals from the European Commission that would be needed in order to capitalise an independent big society bank with money from dormant accounts and to provide it with the flexibility it needs to grow the market. We are also working with the big lottery fund on interim arrangements that will enable investments to be made as soon as dormant accounts money becomes available in the summer, using existing state aid exemptions. We will make further announcements in due course.

## DEFENCE

### Armed Forces' Pay Review Body

**The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox):** The 2011 report of the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body (AFPRB) has now been published. I wish to express my thanks to the chairman and members of the review body for their report. I am pleased to confirm that the AFPRB's recommendations are to be accepted in full, with implementation effective from 1 April 2011.

In line with the Government's 2010 emergency Budget, which announced a two-year pay freeze for all public sector employees, the AFPRB basic military salary recommendations are only for those personnel earning £21,000 or less where the recommendation is for an increase of £250. The AFPRB also recommended a number of targeted measures, including the introduction of financial retention incentives to retain personnel essential to delivering key operational capability. The Government have also accepted the AFPRB recommendations to increase food and some accommodation charges.

Copies of the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body report will be available in the Vote Office.

## EDUCATION

### School Teachers' Review Body

**The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove):** The School Teachers' Review Body's (STRB's) recommendations on pay for those unqualified teachers who earn a full-time equivalent salary of £21,000 or less are being published today. The recommendations cover the first of two matters which were referred to the STRB in October 2010. I am grateful for the careful consideration which the STRB has given to this matter. Copies of the STRB's analysis and recommendations are available in the Vote Office, the Printed Paper Office and the Libraries of both Houses, and online at: http://www.education.gov.uk and http://www.ome.uk.com/.

The STRB has recommended that a non-consolidated payment of £250 should be made to those unqualified teachers who earn £21,000 or less; that the £250 is pro-rated for part-time unqualified teachers; and that consultation should seek to identify a simple and cost-effective method of payment.

I am grateful to the STRB for these recommendations which will apply to those unqualified teachers on scale points 1 to 3 and subject to consultees' views, I intend to accept these recommendations.

My detailed response contains further information on these issues.

Annex

School Teachers' Review Body's (STRB's) recommendations on pay for those unqualified teachers who earn a full-time equivalent salary of £21,000 or less and response from the Secretary of State for Education.

[The following sets out the STRB's recommendations which were published on 21 March 2011, together with the response from the Secretary of State for Education. The STRB's recommendations below are in italics.]

*The Secretary of State for Education:* The STRB's analysis and recommendations on pay for those unqualified teachers who earn a full-time equivalent salary of £21,000 or less are being published today. The recommendations cover the first matter which was referred to the STRB in October 2010. Copies of the analysis and recommendations are available in the Vote Office, the Printed Paper Office and in the Libraries of both Houses and online at: http://www.education.gov.uk and http://www.ome.uk.com/.

In making its recommendations, the STRB was required to have regard to items (a-e) set out in the remit letter of 27 October 2010. The recommendations apply to those unqualified teachers earning £21,000 or less in the context of the two-year public sector pay freeze that will affect teachers from September 2011; and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury's instruction that there should be a minimum award of £250 in each of these two years. I am grateful for the careful attention the STRB has given to this matter.

The STRB is due to submit its 20th report, which will include the recommendations set out below as well as recommendations on whether there should be a limit on the value of discretions that can be applied to head teachers' pay, by 30 March. I propose, therefore, that the statutory consultation on the STRB's recommendations (below) should wait until the 20th report and my response to that report are published in due course. I will, however, accept comments in the meantime on the pay recommendations for unqualified teachers earning £21,000 or less.

*Recommendations on pay for unqualified teachers earning £21,000 or less*

The STRB has recommended that:

> *A non-consolidated payment of £250 be made in both years to all full-time teachers on spine points 1 to 3 of the unqualified teachers' scale;*
>
> *The £250 payment be pro-rated according to their working hours for part-time teachers on points 1 to 3 of the unqualified teachers' scale;*
>
> *The Department consult, with a view to identifying a simple and cost-effective method of payment, and issue guidance as appropriate.*

I am grateful to the STRB for its consideration of this issue and, subject to consultees' views, I intend to implement the payment from September 2011. I also intend, subject to consultees' views, for the school's relevant body to decide how the £250 payment should be implemented.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Energy Council

**The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Chris Huhne):** I will be attending the extraordinary Energy Council on 21 March, which has been called by the Hungarian presidency in order to take stock of the events in north Africa and Japan and to discuss their effect on energy markets. The Council will focus on two discussion points:

> To review the state of play in the energy sectors of the countries linked to these international developments as well as their consequences on energy-markets (e.g. supply from north Africa, evolution of demand in Japan);
>
> To exchange views on the response, already underway or to be undertaken, at EU (e.g. crisis information and monitoring, various gas and oil co-ordination mechanisms) and member states' level (e.g. national plans, redeployment of national supplies, review of safety measures), over various time horizons (from short-term to medium/long-term).

I intend to emphasise that member states and the Commission need carefully to establish what lessons can be learned from Japan to see how they can be applied in the EU. The Government take the incident in Japan extremely seriously and I have already called on the Chief Nuclear Inspector, Dr Mike Weightman, for a thorough report on the implications of the situation in Japan and the lessons to be learned. I will also emphasise that the EU should wait until the facts of the Japanese accident are clearer before taking any decisions about changes to the safety framework.

As regards the events in north Africa, we will continue to emphasise the importance of close engagement with other states in the IEA and the IEF to ensure that proper consideration is given to any measure that would calm the market.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### International Criminal Court (Victims Fund)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr Henry Bellingham):** The United Kingdom has made a donation of £500,000 to the International Criminal Court's (ICC) Trust Fund for Victims.

The Trust Fund for Victims (TFV) was established by the states parties of the ICC in 2002 to benefit the victims of crimes within the Court's jurisdiction. It is entirely funded by voluntary donations, and the British Government are now the second largest contributor to the fund. The focus of its work so far has been in northern Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, where its project work provides assistance to the victims of the most serious crimes, including torture and sexual violence.

The ICC is now established as a cornerstone of the international justice system, and the recent referral to the Court by the United Nations Security Council of the situation in Libya was a clear example of the core role that the Court is now playing on the international stage. In all of its work, the ICC has placed a special focus on the rights and needs of victims. The TFV, anticipating that its mandate on reparations will be activated in the foreseeable future, will continue to play an increasingly important role in support of these victims, as they seek to re-establish their dignity and livelihood.

## HEALTH

### NHS Pay Review Body

**The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley):** I am responding on behalf of my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to the 25th report of the NHS Pay Review Body (NHSPRB). The report has been laid before Parliament today (Cm 8029). Copies of the report are available to hon. Members from the Vote

Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office. I am grateful to the chair and members of the NHSPRB for their report.

We welcome the NHSPRB's 25th report and accept its conclusions in full. We will take forward the suggested actions, which will help us continue to improve our support for the NHSPRB's important work.

## JUSTICE

### Prison Service Pay Review

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Crispin Blunt):** The 10th report of the Prison Service Pay Review Body (PSPRB) (Cm 8021) has been laid before Parliament today. The report makes recommendations for staff within the remit group who earn the full-time equivalent of £21,000 and below, and who are eligible for an increase in 2011-12 under the Government's announced pay policy for public sector workforces. Copies of the report are available at: http://www.ome.uk.com/PSPRB_Annual_Reports.aspx. I am grateful to the chair and members of the PSPRB for their hard work in producing these recommendations.

The PSPRB key recommendations for 2011 are as follows:

> a consolidated increase of £250 to all pay points at or below £21,000, including the first two points on the closed prison officer scale;
>
> a requirement for the service and the POA to engage promptly in constructive dialogue with a view to agreeing the pay scales to apply for prison officer 2, prison officer 1 and the new operational support grade (OSG).

The PSPRB's recommendations, which are consistent with our proposals for 2011-12, will be implemented. The cost of the award will be met from within the delegated budget allocation for the National Offender Management Service.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Review Body on Senior Salaries

**The Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron):** Since coming to power the Government have taken a number of steps to control public sector pay. At the first meeting of the Cabinet, Ministers announced that they would take a 5% pay cut—and that their pay would be frozen for the rest of the Parliament; vital savings have been achieved by freezing the pay of those earning over £21,000 and placing restrictions on bonuses for senior managers; transparency has been increased by publishing the salaries of senior Whitehall officials; and requirements for ministerial scrutiny of the highest public sector wages have been extended and strengthened.

In the civil service in particular significant savings have been made. Departmental spending envelopes set at the spending review mean that administration costs will fall by £5.899 million by 2014-15, a reduction of 34%. In addition, Departments have taken forward recruitment freezes which, alongside reforms to the civil service compensation scheme will deliver further savings over the spending review period.

It is in this context that the 33rd report of the Review Body on Senior Salaries (SSRB) is being published today. The report covers the remuneration of the judiciary, senior civil servants, senior officers in the armed forces and certain senior NHS managers. Copies have been laid in the Vote Office, the Printed Paper Office and the Libraries of both Houses. I thank the SSRB for their work in preparing this report.

*The Judiciary*

Given in particular the two-year pay freeze that will be in place for public servants earning over £21,000 from April 2011, the Government are not announcing any immediate changes to judicial salaries, but are considering the detail of the report overall and will respond at an appropriate time.

*Senior Civil Service*

The Government confirm that they will continue to work on reforms to the current SCS reward model that are consistent with the Government's wider policy on restraint in public sector pay, and senior pay in particular, and the need to ensure that the civil service can continue to recruit, retain and motivate sufficient people of the necessary quality to fulfil the important roles undertaken by the SCS. The Government are grateful for the constructive engagement from the trade unions on SCS pay reform and will continue to consult and engage with them going forwards.

*Senior Officers in the Armed Forces*

The Government have accepted the review body's recommendation that the Ministry of Defence review the performance management and pay system and consider whether improvements can be made.

*Senior NHS Managers*

The Government thank the review body for its work in this area and for continuing to monitor recruitment and retention over the pay freeze period.

*Other Review Body reports for 2011-12*

My right hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for Defence, Justice, Education and Health are making statements today on the reports of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body, the Prison Service Pay Body, the School Teachers Review Body, and the NHS Pay Review Body in respect of pay for the relevant workforces.

## TRANSPORT

### Drink and Drug-driving

**The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond):** I have today placed in the Library of the House the Government's response to a report by Sir Peter North on drink and drug-driving which was published in June 2010. This response also covers a report by the Transport Select Committee which was published in December 2010. The Government's response is available on the Department's website: www.dft.gov.uk.

The Government are committed to improving road safety. It is a priority to deter driving when unfit through drugs or alcohol, and to ensure that those who persist in this dangerous behaviour are detected and punished effectively. We must protect law-abiding road users with measures that are effective and proportionate, concentrating on those who are a danger to themselves and other road users, while avoiding unnecessary social and economic impacts.

We are convinced that our first priority must be to give the police the means to identify drug-drivers and compel them to give evidential samples for testing. It is just as dangerous for people to drive impaired by alcohol or drugs, and it is quite wrong that it is easier at present to get away with one than the other. There needs to be a clear message that drug-drivers are as likely to be caught and punished as drink-drivers and that drug-driving is as socially unacceptable as drink-driving.

We have taken the first steps to address this with a specification for drug testing equipment for the police. We aim to have this available for use later this year. We will—as Sir Peter suggested—examine the case for a new specific offence which would remove the need for the police to prove impairment on a case-by-case basis where a specified drug has been detected. The introduction of fixed thresholds for blood-alcohol as the test for drink-driving has delivered benefits to road safety that are clear for all to see.

Our strategy is to focus resources and any legislative changes on measures which will have the most impact in reducing dangerous behaviours. There are therefore two main priorities—

> to continue the successful abatement of drink-driving and achieve similar success against drug-driving by giving the police effective tools to identify and proceed against drink and drug-drivers;
>
> to streamline the enforcement process for drink and drug-driving to remove pressure on police and other enforcement resources.

A staggering proportion of drink-drivers are well over the current limit—40% of those caught by the police are 2.5 times the limit. The proportion of drivers over the limit who are killed is the same. Their behaviour is entrenched and displays a flagrant disregard for the law and the safety of other road users. We have concluded that improving enforcement is likely to have most impact on these dangerous people, and will therefore be the most effective use of scarce resources, rather than lowering the prescribed alcohol limit for driving.

We will implement the following measures, bringing forward legislation where necessary at the earliest opportunity—

> revoke the right to opt for a blood test when the evidential breath test result is less than 40% over the limit (the "statutory option") as this causes delay which results in some offenders avoiding prosecution;
>
> streamline the procedure for testing drink-drivers in hospital;
>
> close a loophole used by high risk offenders to delay their medical examinations;
>
> require drink-drivers who are substantially in excess of the limit to take remedial training and a linked driving assessment—as well as a medical examination—before recovering their licence;
>
> re-launch the drink-drive rehabilitation scheme under which drink-drivers can get the period of their driving disqualification reduced if they complete an approved training course;
>
> approve portable evidential breath testing equipment for the police—and provide for preliminary testing not to be required where evidential testing can be undertaken away from the police station;
>
> approve preliminary drug-testing equipment, initially for use in police stations—and at the roadside as soon as possible;
>
> delegate to custody nurses the assessment police doctors are now required to make of suspected drug-drivers.

Full impact assessments, including among other things the potential impacts on enforcement and the judicial system, will be prepared in the usual way when legislation is brought forward.

### Regional Cycling Projects

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Norman Baker):** Today, I am announcing £836,000 of additional funding in this financial year to implement a number of small sustainable projects in the cycle towns and, separately, for three train operating companies to enhance their bike and rail schemes. This exceptional decision has been made possible due to prudent management of departmental expenditure, including additional efficiencies made this year.

The chosen cycle town projects—Blackpool, Bristol, Cambridge, Colchester, Darlington, Derby, Exeter, Leighton Linslade, South Gloucestershire, Southend, Shrewsbury Woking and York—have been assessed as capable of being delivered within the current financial year while offering value-for-money. I believe this additional funding will assist in meeting the overall aims of the project to get more people cycling safely. All the recommended projects fit well with the strategic objectives of the towns concerned and will increase the effectiveness of their existing programmes in generating additional cyclists.

The three train operating companies, Merseyrail, South West Trains and Northern Rail, have worked hard, in partnership with local authorities and other organisations, including Sustrans and Network Rail, to deliver high-quality infrastructure improvements accompanied by promotional activities. This is with the aim of encouraging more cycling to railway stations and to deliver improved integration of bike and rail journeys. This money will enable further enhancements to these schemes.

Today's announcement complements, and is in addition to, our recently launched local sustainable transport fund which allows local authorities to bid for a share of £560 million over four years, aimed at encouraging sustainable transport solutions, including cycling initiatives, that will create economic growth and cut carbon.

This additional funding demonstrates the Government's continued commitment to cycling, recognising their potential contribution to reducing carbon emissions, improving health and creating economic growth.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Health and Safety System

**The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling):** The Government are committed to a health and safety regime that is fair, balanced and proportionate. Sensible health and safety at work helps to maintain a healthy and productive work force and contributes to economic prosperity. The burden of health and safety red tape has, however, become too great, with too many inspections of relatively low risk and good performing work places, frequently poor health and safety advice to businesses from badly qualified consultants, and a complex structure for regulation. To address these issues, the Government are today publishing their plans for the reform of the health and safety system.

We will clamp down on the rogue health and safety advisers who cost industry so much money by providing advice which often bears little relation to the actual requirements of legislation. To achieve this we have launched an official occupational safety and health consultants register for those health and safety practitioners who are properly accredited to one of the professional bodies in the industry. Those who do not have the requisite expertise and experience will be excluded from the register, making it easier for employers to access reliable, reputable advice. I am pleased to announce that the register will be open for the use of employers from today.

We will shift the focus of health and safety activity away from businesses that do the right thing, and instead concentrate efforts on higher risk areas and on dealing with serious breaches of health and safety regulation. Those organisations which pose a lesser risk and which meet their legal responsibilities will be left free of unwarranted scrutiny. This will mean a very substantial drop in the number of health and safety inspections carried out in Britain. We will also shift the cost burden of health and safety away from the taxpayer, and instead make those organisations that fail to meet their obligations pay to put things right.

We will seek to clarify and simplify health and safety legislation, and in doing so ease the burden on business. We are today launching new "Health and Safety Made Simple" guidance to provide lower-risk small and medium-sized businesses with the essential information they need to achieve a basic level of health and safety management in their work place in a single, easy-to-use, package. We are also launching an immediate review of health and safety regulation overseen by an independent advisory panel chaired by Professor Ragnar Löfstedt, director of the King's centre for risk management at King's college London. The review will be asked to make recommendations by autumn 2011 for simplifying the current rules. We will also ask the review to consider whether changes to legislation are needed to clarify the position of employers in cases where employees act in a grossly irresponsible manner.

Further details are available on the Department for Work and Pensions website at www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/health-and-safety. The latest progress on the implementation of the recommendations of Lord Young's report "Common Sense, Common Safety" can be found on the same website.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Tuesday 22 March 2011*

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Sunset Clauses (New Regulations)

**The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Mark Prisk):** I am publishing today the guidance prepared by the Better Regulation Executive to assist Departments in implementing the Government's commitment to introduce sunset clauses in new regulations.

The policy that is set out in the guidance will contribute to the Government's goal of transforming the role of regulation in our society. Where regulation is no longer needed, or where it results in disproportionate burdens, the use of review and sunset clauses will help ensure that it is removed. It will strengthen the current process of post-implementation review, and also promote greater transparency and scrutiny of Departments' regulatory activities.

The initial focus for the policy will be new domestic regulation introduced by Whitehall Departments that results in a net burden on business and civil society organisations, and domestic legislation implementing new EU obligations. The Government's intention is that all measures that are in scope will be subject to a statutory review obligation, with those domestic measures implemented through secondary legislation also subject to a sunset provision. For secondary legislation, implementation in each case will be subject to the vires under which the relevant regulations are made.

Ministers will be under an obligation to carry out and publish a review of the regulation within five years of it coming into force. The review will look at whether the regulation is effective in meeting its original objectives, whether it is still required, and whether it can be improved. Where there is a sunset clause Ministers may also, depending on the outcome of the review, need to renew the legislation in order for the regulation to remain in force. The renewal, amendment, or revocation of regulations resulting from the new policy will be carried out through existing legislative processes.

The guidance is being published on the BIS website at: http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/better-regulation/better-regulation-executive/reducing-regulation-made-simple/reviewing-existing-regulations/pirs-and-sunset-reviews. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## DEFENCE

### Defence Business Services

**The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox):** As part of the process of departmental reform, today we are announcing the commencement of consultation on a significant organisational change within the Ministry of Defence, with the proposed establishment of a defence business services organisation.

Defence business services will deliver corporate services —human resources, finance, information, commercial and vetting—from a single structure to all areas of the Department. This new single organisation will allow us to provide high-quality professional services more efficiently and with fewer civil servants. We are exploring options to strengthen our ability to manage this change, including the possibility of bringing in outside professional management expertise to lead and direct the new organisation.

By making these changes we expect to reduce the overall civilian work force by about 2,000 corporate services posts with a net saving of £73 million per annum by 2014. This will make a significant contribution to the civilian staff reductions set out last October in the strategic defence and security review.

These proposals are a development of the recommendations made in Gerry Grimstone's independent review into the use of civilians in defence in 2010. Along with the creation of a new defence infrastructure organisation, which I announced to Parliament on 16 February 2011, the corporate services reforms are the first changes arising out of the work of the defence reform unit chaired by Lord Levene on restructuring the Department. There will be more such changes as we receive and consider further proposals.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Consular Services (Fees)

**The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Mr Jeremy Browne):** In addition to its assistance to British nationals in distress, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) provides a range of consular services to British nationals who live, work and conduct business overseas. On 16 March 2011 Her Majesty in Council approved the Consular Fees Order 2011. Part I of that order, which has been deposited in the Library of the House, sets what the FCO charges for these services (and for emergency passports, travel documents, and transferring money to those in distress overseas) from 6 April 2011. At the same time the FCO is also making broader changes to these services, most of which will affect very few British nationals.

From 6 April 2011 we will no longer provide as standard some niche administrative services. We will cease offering searches in foreign archives for personal documents, such as for foreign birth certificates. Modern communications allow customers to approach the relevant authority themselves, and where necessary we will offer guidance on how to do this. We will no longer automatically offer management of estates overseas for the deceased; instead, we will provide customers the details of local lawyers who are better placed to provide this service. And we will stop offering translation or interpretation on notarial services, instead putting customers in touch with expert local translators and interpreters.

These changes should contribute to reducing the time consular officers spend processing documents and increase the time they have to focus on the most vulnerable in most need of assistance. They will not diminish the FCO's assistance to British nationals in distress nor its crisis response capability, including its ability to assist and evacuate British nationals from a country or region.

It is right that, as a general principle, those who benefit from consular services should meet the cost of them, rather than the general taxpayer. The increases to the fees in part I of the order will result in income from the fees increasing by 3.85%. Some fees are reduced, and some are increased by more than this amount. The new fees represent the full economic cost of what we do, and will ensure that British missions continue to provide a high standard of service to consular customers. They are also a sensible rationalisation of the structure of the fees charged.

Fees in part II for passport applications made in the United Kingdom and overseas remain at current levels.

Fees in part III for receiving applications for entry clearance to Commonwealth countries, British overseas territories and Crown dependencies continue to be charged in the order. These fees are "Home Office fees" and are approved by the Home Office Minister but are still contained within the Consular Fees Order.

### Torture and Mistreatment Reporting Guidance

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague):** I wish to make the House aware that I have updated and reissued guidance on reporting torture and mistreatment to all FCO staff, including contractors, secondees and temporary staff and staff from other Government Departments. I have made this guidance available to the public by publishing it on the FCO website.

The UK Government's policy is clear. We do not participate in, solicit, encourage or condone the use of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment for any purpose. We have consistently made clear our absolute opposition to such behaviour and our determination to combat it wherever and whenever it occurs. We take all allegations and concerns about torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment very seriously.

We are determined to strengthen the FCO's institutional capability on human rights at home and overseas. The updated guidance reiterates existing advice, setting out the process for FCO staff and other staff working in Her Majesty's diplomatic missions and offices for reporting information about torture and mistreatment.

Timely, accurate, specific and full reporting is crucial in strengthening the Government's work to eradicate torture and CIDT around the world. The FCO is committed to this work and staff already report cases, raise concerns and take action.

A copy of the guidance will be placed in the Library of the House by 22 March 2011.

## HEALTH

### UK Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Strategy

**The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley):** I am publishing today, for consultation, a new "UK Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Strategy". This cross-Government strategy updates the previous national framework, published in 2007, in the light of the experience from the H1N1 (2009) pandemic including the findings of the independent review chaired by Dame Deirdre Hine and the latest scientific evidence. The strategy has been developed jointly with the devolved Administrations.

It is vital that we remain prepared for a new pandemic, the threat of which remains undiminished. Given the uncertainty about the scale, severity and pattern of development of any future pandemic, three key principles underpin the new strategy. These are that the response to a new pandemic should be precautionary, proportionate and flexible. The draft strategy sets out our proposed strategic approach to apply these principles to pandemic preparedness.

The strategy is intended to inform the development of updated operational plans by local organisations and emergency planners. As a result of their experience in the H1N1 (2009) influenza pandemic, many other organisations and individuals have extensive experience of the challenges that can be posed by a pandemic and will have given these challenges much thought. The Government are keen to ensure that this experience is fully reflected. Therefore, we are inviting comments and views on the strategy set out in this document. The consultation runs until 17 June 2011. We intend to publish the finalised strategy later this year.

The strategy has been placed in the Library. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office. The document is also available at www.consultations.dh.gov.uk

A plan for improving the response to seasonal influenza will be published shortly.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### EU Directive (Human Trafficking)

**The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green):** I am writing today to the Parliamentary Scrutiny Committees in both Houses, seeking their views on the Government's intention to apply to opt in to the EU directive to combat human trafficking upon its adoption. The Government's view remains subject to parliamentary scrutiny.

In June, the Government took the decision not to opt in at the outset to the proposal for a directive to combat human trafficking but undertook to review the position when there was a finalised text. We have now carefully considered the finalised text. The main risk associated with the text has now been overcome: by waiting to apply to opt in, we have a text that has been finalised and we have avoided being bound by measures that are against the UK's interests.

The new text still does not contain any measures that would significantly change the way the UK fights trafficking. However, the UK has always been a world leader in fighting trafficking and has a strong international reputation in this field. Applying to opt in to the directive would continue to send a powerful message to traffickers that the UK is not a soft touch, and that we are supportive of international efforts to tackle this crime.

### Equality and Human Rights Commission

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May):** I am today launching a public consultation on the Government's plans to reform the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

The coalition programme for government commits to "reduce the number and cost of quangos". In order to deliver this, the Government carried out a major review of public bodies last year. Following that review, the decision was taken to retain the commission but substantially reform it to focus it on the areas where it alone can add value, and to increase its accountability to Government, Parliament and the public.

We want the Equality and Human Rights Commission to become a valued and respected national institution. To achieve this aim, we have today set out our proposals for legislative and non-legislative reform in three key areas:

Clarifying the EHRC's remit—the Government will amend the legislation that established the EHRC, the Equality Act 2006, to clarify the commission's core functions. This will allow the EHRC to focus on the work that really matters, where it alone can add value. At present, vagueness in the Equality Act, for example, the duty to "promote understanding of the importance of equality and diversity", has led to the EHRC undertaking a wide range of activities that are not regulatory in nature, including running summer camps for young people.

Stopping non-core activities—one of the causes of the commission's difficulties was the breadth of its remit, extending beyond its core role to, for example, operating a helpline and grants programme. The commission has struggled to do these things well in the past, so we have decided that we should not fund it to do them in the future. The evidence suggests that this work could be done better or more cost-effectively by others.

Improving transparency and value for money—problems with financial controls mean that each set of the EHRC's accounts have been qualified since its creation, and it has struggled to deliver value for money. Today's proposals include a legal requirement for the EHRC to publish an annual business plan in Parliament, and comply with the same rules as all other public bodies when spending money. Where the commission fails to show that it has spent taxpayers' money wisely, financial penalties will apply.

Copies of the consultation document will be placed in the House Library and can also be found on the Government Equalities' Office website at the following link www.equalities.gov.uk.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### "Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 - Review of Temporary Recruitment Provisions"

**The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson):** I have today published the Government's response to the public consultation on the "Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000—Review of Temporary Recruitment Provisions". The response document has been placed in the Library of this House. The temporary provisions came into force in 2001 and the previous Administration renewed them by order on 29 March 2010 for a period of one year.

A total of 162 responses were received to the consultation. Of these 152 were in favour of letting the provisions lapse on 28 March 2011, six were against this proposal and three did not express a definite view. One respondent was in favour of letting the provisions lapse for PSNI officer recruitment, but called for the provisions to be retained for support staff.

The Government have considered the responses to the consultation. They have noted the considerable progress made towards securing a police service that is more fully reflective of the community in Northern Ireland. This follows the recommendation in the Patten report that in order to make a police service representative, community leaders should take steps to remove all discouragement and make it a priority to encourage members of their communities to apply to join the police service.

At the time of the Patten report only 8.3% of Royal Ulster Constabulary officers were from a Catholic community background. Today 29.76% of officers are from a Catholic community background, the top end of the critical mass identified by Patten.

Against this background and given that policing in Northern Ireland is now, rightly, devolved and under local control, the Government consider that the continued use of the temporary provisions can no longer be justified and they will therefore lapse on 28 March 2011. Patten himself said the use of special measures should be revisited after 10 years.

The Government believe that maintaining a police service which is reflective of the society it polices is as important as ever. This view is shared by the Department of Justice and the PSNI themselves and they will continue to work to this end in the years ahead. We want to see this progress continue and for Catholic representation in the PSNI to grow further over time. Patten's vision of a fair, impartial and effective police service does not end with the provisions.

PSNI recruitment issues are regularly monitored by the policing board which will continue to hold the PSNI to account. The PSNI shared future strategy agreed by the board demonstrates the PSNI's continuing commitment to promoting equality and diversity, achieving good relations and building trust with the community.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Wednesday 23 March 2011*

## TREASURY

### Debt and Service Management Report 2011-12

**The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban):** The "Debt and reserves management report 2011-12" is being published today. Copies have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Council Tax

**The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles):** I am pleased to inform the House that all eligible local, fire and rescue and police authorities in England have decided to freeze or reduce their band D council tax in 2011-12 and will therefore all be eligible to receive the additional grant offered by the Government for doing so. The average band D rate of council tax will remain at £1,439—a change of 0%. This is the lowest ever change in the entire history of council tax. It represents a cash-terms freeze, and a real-terms cut in council tax. The capping threshold in recent years was a 5% council tax rise. Stopping such a rise this year saves a typical household up to £72 and if an average 2.5% rise had occurred the saving would have been £36.

Council tax payers in some areas may see a small cash increase in their overall bill due to precept increases set by town and parish councils; central Government have no remit over such precepts. However, nationally, this is offset by some councils which are making cash-terms reductions to council tax levels.

The Government have delivered on their promise to work with authorities to produce a council tax freeze in England, which is tremendous news for hard-working families and pensioners who have experienced a doubling of council tax since 1997.

The spending review made £650 million available for the council tax freeze. Where an authority has not increased its basic amount of council tax in 2011-12 compared with 2010-11, it will receive a grant equivalent to a 2.5% increase in its 2010-11 band D figure multiplied by the latest available tax base figure.

My Department will write to individual local authorities this week informing them of the amount of freeze grant I propose to pay to them during 2011-12. I intend the grant to be paid in 10 equal monthly instalments from April 2011 through to January 2012. Following the 100% response to the freeze by eligible authorities, no further capping action is required in 2011-12.

Although the council tax freeze is only for one year, financial provision is made to support the freeze across the spending review. This will "lock in" the benefits of this year's freeze over each year over the spending review.

Moving forward, the Localism Bill makes provision for the abolition of central Government capping powers, replacing them with new, binding council tax referendums from 2012-13 whenever an authority is proposing an excessive increase.

The Government have also protected families from potential increases in council tax by ruling out a council tax revaluation in England for the remainder of this Parliament. The Localism Bill also legislates to abolish bin taxes—which would have entailed new charges for household waste collections for many families on top of council tax.

### Guidance on Work Force Matters

**The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles):** The growth review has announced that the Government will act to remove barriers to more open and efficient local public services including guidance on work force matters. I wish to provide the House with a detailed update on our approach, including plans to discuss with employers, employee representatives and others whether any alternative arrangements might be useful in the future.

I am revoking, with immediate effect, the guidance on work force matters which formed part of the last Administration's best value regime. This is the handling of work force matters in contracting and the code of practice on work force matters in local authority service contracts ("the two tier code") ("Annexes C and D plus paragraphs 28 to 31 of ODPM Circular 03/2003") and corresponding guidance applicable to fire and rescue authorities and the Greater London Authority ("ODPM circulars 07/2003 for the GLA and 09/2004 for the Fire and Rescue Service").

Councils, the voluntary sector and businesses—especially small firms—have called on the Government to remove unnecessary burdens and barriers that act to prevent fair and open competition. Removing this guidance will help create a level playing field, ensure more opportunities for innovation, help ensure better value for taxpayers' money in the provision of public services, and remove red tape that hinders job creation.

The withdrawal of the two-tier code will not impact on existing TUPE regulations and provisions in the Employment Act 2008 or other employment legislation. There may be instances where contracts will be due for renewal or are currently out to tender and it will be a matter for local authorities to take legal advice on the particular contract specifications and circumstances. The abolition will not be applied retrospectively. Therefore existing contracts and the employment terms that flow from them will not be affected by withdrawal of the code.

I will be writing over the coming days to employers, employee representatives and others to invite their views on whether there might be anything, such as a statement of good employment principles in place of the code, that would be helpful for the future.

### Planning for Growth

**The Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Greg Clark):** The Chancellor of the Exchequer has today issued a call to action on growth, publishing an ambitious set of proposals to help rebuild Britain's economy. The planning system has a key role to play in this, by ensuring that the sustainable development needed to support economic growth is able to proceed as easily as possible. We will work quickly to reform the planning system to achieve this, but the Government recognise that many of these actions will take some months to deliver, and that there is a pressing need to ensure that the planning system does everything it can to help secure a swift return to economic growth. This statement therefore sets out the steps the Government expect local planning authorities to take with immediate effect.

The Government's top priority in reforming the planning system is to promote sustainable economic growth and jobs. Government's clear expectation is that the answer to development and growth should wherever possible be "yes", except where this would compromise the key sustainable development principles set out in national planning policy.

The Chancellor has today set out further detail on our commitment to introduce a strong presumption in favour of sustainable development in the forthcoming national planning policy framework, which will expect local planning authorities to plan positively for new development; to deal promptly and favourably with applications that comply with up-to-date plans and national planning policies; and wherever possible to approve applications where plans are absent, out of date, silent or indeterminate.

Local planning authorities should therefore press ahead without delay in preparing up-to-date development plans, and should use that opportunity to be proactive in driving and supporting the growth that this country needs. They should make every effort to identify and meet the housing, business and other development needs of their areas, and respond positively to wider opportunities for growth, taking full account of relevant economic signals such as land prices. Authorities should work together to ensure that needs and opportunities that extend beyond (or cannot be met within) their own boundaries are identified and accommodated in a sustainable way, such as housing market requirements that cover a number of areas, and the strategic infrastructure necessary to support growth.

When deciding whether to grant planning permission, local planning authorities should support enterprise and facilitate housing, economic and other forms of sustainable development. Where relevant—and consistent with their statutory obligations—they should therefore:

> consider fully the importance of national planning policies aimed at fostering economic growth and employment, given the need to ensure a return to robust growth after the recent recession;
>
> take into account the need to maintain a flexible and responsive supply of land for key sectors, including housing;
>
> consider the range of likely economic, environmental and social benefits of proposals; including long-term or indirect benefits such as increased consumer choice, more viable communities and more robust local economies (which may, where relevant, include matters such as job creation and business productivity);
>
> be sensitive to the fact that local economies are subject to change and so take a positive approach to development where new economic data suggest that prior assessments of needs are no longer up-to-date; and
>
> ensure that they do not impose unnecessary burdens on development.

In determining planning applications, local planning authorities are obliged to have regard to all relevant considerations. They should ensure that they give appropriate weight to the need to support economic recovery, that applications that secure sustainable growth are treated favourably (consistent with policy in PPS4), and that they can give clear reasons for their decisions.

To further ensure that development can go ahead, all local authorities should reconsider, at developers' request, existing section 106 agreements that currently render schemes unviable, and where possible modify those obligations to allow development to proceed; provided this continues to ensure that the development remains acceptable in planning terms.

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government will take the principles in this statement into account when determining applications that come before him for decision. In particular he will attach significant weight to the need to secure economic growth and employment.

Benefits to the economy should, where relevant, be an important consideration when other development-related consents are being determined, including heritage, environmental, energy and transport consents. The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and the Secretary of State for Transport have consequently agreed that to the extent it accords with the relevant statutory provisions and national policies, decisions on these other consents should place particular weight on the potential economic benefits offered by an application. They will reflect this principle in relevant decisions that come before them and encourage their agencies and non departmental bodies to adopt the same approach for the consents for which those other bodies are directly responsible.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Private Members' Bills (2010-12 Session)

**The Leader of the House of Commons (Sir George Young):** In September, I informed the House that the Government had decided that the current Session of Parliament should run until the spring of 2012. This was in order to ensure a smooth transition towards five, 12-month Sessions over a Parliament, which would be a beneficial consequence of Parliament agreeing the Fixed-term Parliaments Bill.

I have tabled a motion, which appears on the Order Paper today, which has the effect of providing extra days for the consideration of Private Members' Bills in this Session. The extra dates to be provided are 9 September 2011, 21 October 2011, 25 November 2011 and 20 January 2012. Bills will have precedence on those days in accordance with the established order set out in paragraph (5) of Standing Order No.14.

The Government are also mindful that, due to the longer than usual current Session, extra provision will be necessary for Opposition days and Backbench Business days. No changes to Standing Orders are necessary to accommodate adequate extra provision in these two instances, and I will announce the provision of extra time through the weekly business statement as usual.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Thursday 24 March 2011*

## TREASURY

### Rebalancing the Northern Ireland Economy

**The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke):** The Treasury has today published a consultation paper on rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy.

The paper, which meets a coalition programme for Government commitment, has been produced in consultation with the Northern Ireland Office and the Northern Ireland Executive (NIE). It reflects the joint commitment towards meeting the economic challenges Northern Ireland faces, in particular; increasing the size of the private sector while reducing dependency on the public sector, improving productivity, raising growth and increasing employment.

The Government have developed a range of UK-wide policies to rebalance the economy which will benefit Northern Ireland. The 2011 Budget announces new measures, including the Government's enterprise zone policy and its plan for growth. The paper draws on these policies and describes devolved policies for rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy, bearing in mind that many of the key economic policy levers are already devolved.

The paper also discusses the option of devolving the power to vary the rate of corporation tax to the Northern Ireland Executive, given the unique circumstances in Northern Ireland, including its large public sector, the economic legacy of the troubles and the land border with Ireland. This includes discussion of:

The benefits and costs of devolving corporation tax varying powers to the Northern Ireland Executive;
Implementation issues;
Other possible tax options.

The consultation will conclude in June 2011. The Government, in consultation with the Northern Ireland Executive, will make decisions in light of the responses received.

Copies of the paper are being placed in the Libraries of both Houses and are available via the Treasury website.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Election and Referendum Guidance

**The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Francis Maude):** Guidance has today been issued to civil servants in UK Departments on the principles which they should observe in relation to the conduct of Government business in the run up to the forthcoming elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly, the Scottish Parliament and the National Assembly for Wales, to local authorities in England and Northern Ireland, and the voting systems referendum.

The guidance sets out the principles on the need to maintain the political impartiality of the civil service, and the need to ensure that public resources are not used for party political purposes, and sets out the sensitive periods when the guidance comes into force.

Copies of the guidance have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and on the Cabinet Office website at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/election-guidance.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck Sites

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (John Penrose):** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced on 26 July 2010 our intention to make a number of changes to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's arm's length bodies. These changes included the abolition of the Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck Sites (ACHWS), which was set up to advise Government on the designation and licensing of historic wrecks under the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973. The ACHWS held its final meeting today, and will cease to exist as of 24 March 2011.

The ACHWS has served a valuable purpose over the years, but we believe that advice on the operation of the 1973 Act can be provided in a more streamlined way. In future such advice will be provided by English Heritage in relation to heritage assets located in UK territorial waters adjacent to England. As the Government's statutory adviser on the historic environment, English Heritage already provides advice on the protection and conservation of terrestrial heritage assets in England and we believe it makes sense to bring procedures on land and at sea into line. The devolved Administrations will in future source their own advice for Ministers on the operation of the 1973 Act in their respective areas of UK territorial waters.

The Government remain fully committed to ensuring the continued conservation and management of underwater heritage assets in the UK's territorial waters. We are confident that the new arrangements will ensure the continuation of appropriate advice to Ministers while allowing flexibility to meet the particular needs and circumstances of each country.

## EDUCATION

### UK Youth Parliament

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education (Tim Loughton):** The Government will provide continuing support into 2011-12 to the UK Youth Parliament. Following a limited competitive bidding exercise the Department for Education proposes to award a grant of £335,000 to the British Youth Council to continue the UK Youth Parliament's key functions and sustain its independence and distinct identity for six months from April 2011. This proposal will be discussed by the trustees of the current host charity for the UK Youth Parliament, Democracy for Young People Ltd, at its meeting on 30 March. The aim of this proposal is to secure continued support for the work of the 600 young people who are members of the Youth Parliament or their deputies. A short-term grant of £65,000 will be offered to Democracy for Young People Ltd to enable it to deliver a smooth transition. The Government are considering what arrangements would be appropriate to sustain the UK Youth Parliament in the longer term. I am pleased that the Speaker of the House of Commons has confirmed continuing support for the UK Youth Parliament in 2011-12 including for the annual debate in the Commons chamber.

Giving young people a voice in public decisions which affect them is a key principle underpinning the Government's youth policy. Members of the UK Youth Parliament make a valuable contribution to making the voices of young people heard within formal democratic processes and these measures will ensure that their work can continue.

### Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

**The Minister of State, Department for Education (Mr Nick Gibb):** It is vital that all children learn how to read early in their education. Despite the efforts of teachers and parents, 15% of pupils did not reach the expected level in reading at the end of key stage 1 last year. At the end of key stage 2, 16% of pupils were below level 4 in reading, and 8% of pupils were below level 3. These figures show that we need to do more to ensure that our children have the skills as early as possible, to develop into confident, enthusiastic readers.

Research evidence shows that systematic teaching of synthetic phonics is the best way of teaching reading. All children should benefit from high-quality phonics teaching, which will give them the tools to read widely and deeply. Phonics is a prerequisite for children to become effective readers, but it is not an end in itself. Phonics should always be taught alongside comprehension and other wider reading skills. The goal is for children to read fluently for comprehension and pleasure so that they can access the rest of the curriculum and develop a lifelong love of reading.

The Government's intention to introduce a simple, light-touch assessment of phonic decoding was included in the recent schools White Paper "The Importance of Teaching". The Government have been consulting on plans to introduce a year 1 phonics screening check. The consultation document proposed the check should be designed to confirm that children are able to decode using phonics by the end of year 1, and to identify those pupils who need additional support.

Over 1,000 responses to the year 1 phonics screening check public consultation were submitted. Having considered all these responses, alongside other evidence such as the pre-trialling of sample assessment materials and reviews of academic research, the Government will develop the phonics screening check for this purpose. The check will provide parents and teachers with the reassurance they need that each child has grasped the basic code of the language. In a recent Nation Council for Parent Teacher Associations survey, 73% of parents, from a representative sample of 460, supported the policy.

The phonics check will contain some non-words. Non-words are already used in many schools, and they are the quickest and fairest way to assess phonic decoding. Non-words are new to all children, and their inclusion in the phonics check is designed to ensure children have the skill to read any new word, rather than simply a good sight memory for whole words.

The responses to the consultation repeatedly emphasised that the check must be manageable for schools to administer, and appropriate for children in year 1. We have therefore made a number of adjustments to our proposals to give schools and teachers greater flexibility, including allowing a week long window for the screening check to take place across the whole year group, and allowing more than one teacher in each school to administer the check. We intend to include the data from the check in RAISEOnline for use by schools, to monitor their own performance, local authorities and Ofsted. Although schools and other education professionals will consider their pupils' performance on this check in light of national benchmarks, this is not a "high stakes" test. We will therefore not be publishing school by school results in performance tables.

In November and December last year, the Department pre-trialled sample screening check materials in 16 schools. Pupils and teachers responded well to the materials. Pupils were not confused by the use of non-words, and the check of 20 real words and 20 non-words took an average of just 2-3 minutes to administer.

The screening check will be piloted in a representative sample of approximately 300 schools this June. We will continue to gather evidence and take advice from schools about the policy during the pilot stage before finalising the assessment arrangements. Subject to the pilot's success, the year 1 phonics screening check will become a statutory assessment from 2012.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Environment Council

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman):** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and I represented the United Kingdom at the Environment Council on 14 March in Brussels.

At the beginning of the Council, Environment Commissioner Potocnik updated Ministers on the situation in Japan and was joined by member states in offering condolences and support.

The Council reached political agreement on the first reading of the recast of the directive on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), agreeing more ambitious collection and recycling targets for these materials (to be introduced over time and subject to full impact assessment) and measures to reduce red tape. In discussions I stressed the importance of clarity for industry on the scope of the directive and the importance of reviews and impact assessments before any changes were made in this area. I also supported improvements to the methodology for calculating recovery targets to ensure greater certainty.

Ministers then exchanged views on the proposal for a regulation regarding the possibility for member states to restrict or prohibit the cultivation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) within their own territory. The main focus of the debate was on the Commission's proposed list of possible justifications for prohibiting cultivation. I argued that any agreement would need to improve the operation of the decision-making process in a legally sound, proportionate and pragmatic way. Like other member states, I stressed the need for a clear legal view of the compatibility of the proposals with EU internal market rules and our WTO obligations. I was also concerned that some of the suggested grounds for national bans were inconsistent with the existing robust EU system that takes a science-based approach in evaluating the health and environmental effects of proposed GMOs. Other grounds risked unintended consequences. I concluded it was not clear that the Commission proposal would improve the system and it could set an unwelcome precedent for other areas in moving away from a science-based approach.

The Council agreed conclusions on the review of the Community strategy concerning mercury. These welcome progress made in the EU and call for a successful conclusion to the international negotiations on a global legally binding instrument on mercury.

Ministers exchanged views on the common agricultural policy towards 2020. I welcomed the presidency decision to hold a discussion on this among Environment Ministers. I underlined the need for the CAP to have a greater focus on confronting the challenges of climate change, protecting natural resources and preventing environmental degradation. These challenges are well analysed in the recent UK Foresight report on global food and farming futures. I commended this report to colleagues in the Council and circulated copies for their information. I argued that the CAP is a key mechanism to achieve our environmental goals and explained that the UK sees pillar 2 of the CAP as the primary tool for doing this. The debate sent a strong message that the future CAP should contribute more to our environmental and climate objectives in line with the EU 2020 strategy.

I also spoke in the discussion on the Environment Council's "Contribution to the EU Semester" (i.e. review of the annual growth survey) in advance of consideration by the European Council. I stressed the importance of moving early to a resource-efficient, climate-resilient, low-carbon economy if we are to achieve a sustainable economic recovery. Many member states intervened on comparable lines. The presidency noted that resource efficiency and climate change were integral elements in this process.

Several points were discussed under other business on non-climate environment issues, during which I introduced a joint note with Austria, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Spain on whaling. We emphasised the need for the EU to express its existing strong position of opposition to commercial whaling wherever appropriate, including the next round of International Whaling Commission discussions in July and also when negotiating the proposed accession of new member states. A number of member states spoke on a point raised by Austria on measures taken to reduce the usage of single-use carrier bags; other member states took the opportunity to describe a variety of successful actions taken for this purpose.

During the lunch discussion my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State led member states in welcoming the Commission's 2050 low-carbon road map. There will be further detailed discussion of the road map at the informal Environment Council at the end of the month.

Under climate items, the Council adopted conclusions on the follow-up to the meeting of the UN framework convention on climate change at Cancun in December 2010. These welcome the progress made at Cancun and call for early action in taking forward the agreed work streams and outstanding technical issues. Discussion focused mainly on the legal form of a future comprehensive agreement and the EU's position on a second commitment period of the Kyoto protocol. My right hon. Friend was supported by other member states in calling for the EU to maintain its position of being open to this, which had been well received at Cancun. Conclusions were agreed which reiterate the position adopted at the October Environment Council.

Under other business on climate change issues, the Council received updates from the Commission on the state of the EU emissions trading system registry and the joint procurement agreement for the single auction monitor; and information from Denmark on the use of industrial gas credits under the effort sharing decision.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Foreign Affairs Council and General Affairs Council

**The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington):** The Foreign Affairs Council and General Affairs Council were held on 21 March in Brussels. I represented the UK.

Foreign Affairs Council (FAC)

The FAC was chaired by Baroness Ashton. A provisional report of the meeting, and all conclusions adopted, can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/120084.pdf

The agenda items covered were as follows:

*Japan*

Ministers reviewed the EU's response to the crisis in Japan. Commissioners Georgieva (International Co-operation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response) and Piebalgs (Development) briefed Ministers on the public health situation and the requirement for humanitarian assistance. A key focus for current EU efforts would probably be temporary housing. (See also record of GAC discussion.)

*Libya*

Ministers agreed conclusions (see link above) which:

Called on Gaddafi to relinquish power immediately;

Expressed satisfaction with the adoption of UNSCR 1973;

Agreed further restrictive measures against the Libyan regime and agreed to work up further measures on the basis of UNSCR 1973;

> Committed to support action provided under UNSCR 1973—noting that the EU would continue to provide humanitarian assistance to those affected;
>
> Called for the High Representative to develop planning for assistance for humanitarian assistance in close co-ordination with the UN and NATO.

During discussions, I set out how military action under UNSCR 1973 had helped avoid a catastrophe in Benghazi. This action had been broad-based; a coming together of western and regional actors.

Libya was also discussed in the GAC in the context of the text of European Council conclusions which will be presented to the European Council on 24-25 March—see below.

*Developments in the Southern Neighbourhood*

Ministers agreed conclusions on both Bahrain and Yemen (see link above) expressing concern with the situation in both countries. In both cases, the Council urged all concerned—including the respective Governments—to engage in constructive dialogue. They expressed concern about reports of the arrest of opposition figures in Bahrain. And stressed the need for the authorities in Yemen to ensure respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

On EU assistance to the region, I stressed the need for conditionality, or, what others termed "mutual accountability": a lot of money had been spent to limited effect in terms of economic development or political reform. The European neighbourhood policy (ENP) needed ambitious re-shaping to focus on supporting states pursuing reforms.

*Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)*

Ministers agreed conclusions (see link) that endorsed the external action service's (EAS) proposals for a reconfigured EU presence in BiH. The conclusions raised concerns about the political situation in BiH and called on BiH leaders to form Governments which can address the reform agenda. The conclusions outlined the Council's continued support for the Office of the High Representative (OHR), EUFOR (EU military mission) and EUPM (EU police mission). They also outlined the package of instruments, including restrictive measures, which would be available to the new EU representative and looked forward to further discussions on the reconfiguration of the international presence.

*The Sahel*

Council conclusions on a strategy for security and development in the Sahel were adopted (see link). The strategy's primary focus will be on Mali, Mauritania and Niger, but it also builds on complementary activity in the Maghreb. Proposals made by the High Representative and Commission on the basis of this strategy will be considered by Brussels working groups before implementation. Action would be directed to development, good governance, and internal conflict resolution; security and rule of law; and countering violent extremism.

*Somalia*

Conclusions were agreed (see link above) which:

> Confirmed the EU's continuing support for the Djibouti peace process;
>
> Stressed the need for the transitional federal institutions (TFIs) to help advance the peace process;
>
> Expressed regret over the Somali transitional federal Parliament's decision to extend its mandate;
>
> Agreed that any future EU support to the TFIs, including stipends for parliamentarians, should be based on progress on reform;
>
> Reaffirmed support for the AMISOM peacekeeping mission.

I supported the conclusions, stressing the importance of maintaining pressure on the TFIs, supporting AMISOM and greater EAS engagement in Puntland.

*Iran*

Council conclusions were adopted (see above link) without discussion on Iran/human rights. These gave agreement to introduce targeted sanctions against human rights violators while at the same time making it clear that the EU remains ready to discuss human rights issues with Iran. Work will now proceed in Brussels to draw up the sanctions legal act and list of individuals to be targeted.

*Côte d'Ivoire*

Under AOB, France raised recent developments in Côte d'Ivoire. There was broad agreement that the EU needed to continue to apply its targeted measures against Mr. Gbagbo and those that sustain his illegitimate regime. On the 18 March, the Foreign Secretary issued a statement:

> "I utterly condemn the indiscriminate killing of more than 25 people in Abobo yesterday by forces loyal to former President Gbagbo. The launching of mortars into a market place and bus station is abhorrent and the UN should conduct a full investigation.
>
> I call on all parties in Côte d'Ivoire to cease violence, to seek a peaceful resolution to the ongoing crisis and for President Ouattara to take his rightful position in line with the will of the Ivorian people".

GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL (GAC)

The GAC was chaired by the presidency, Hungarian Foreign Minister Martonyi. A provisional report of the meeting can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/genff/120082.pdf

*Preparation for the March European Council*

Ministers examined draft Council conclusions for the European Council to be held on 24-25 March. The European Council will discuss:

> *Economic policy*: adoption of a comprehensive package of measures to strengthen EU economic governance and ensure the stability of the euro area.
>
> *Developments in Libya and elsewhere in the EU's southern neighbourhood*: follow-up to UNSCR 1973 and latest developments as regards Libya; implementation of measures agreed by the European Council on 4 February.
>
> *Crisis in Japan*: assessment of the humanitarian aid effort, the situation in the energy sector and the broader economic implications.

*Economic policy*

On economic policy, I emphasised the need to focus on economic growth, building on the Commission's annual growth survey. The European Council conclusions needed to have language promoting smarter regulation, reducing the regulatory burden on businesses and SMEs in particular, and improving the internal market for services. The EU also had to reflect on the importance of trade for future EU growth, delivering this through a conclusion to the Doha round this year and taking forward negotiations on free trade agreements (FTAs) with India, Canada and Singapore.

*Libya and the Southern Neighbourhood*

Following on from the earlier discussion in the FAC, Ministers focused on the detail of proposed short-term measures, including raising the ceiling of the European Investment Bank (EIB) operations in the region by EUR 1 billion. A number of member states emphasised the conditions that would need to accompany any such rise.

I also made a more general call for a set of ambitious European Council conclusions, reflecting our offer of a new partnership and a deeper coalition with the region in return for greater reform. To that end, we needed to better reflect the commitment set at the European Council of 11 March—which my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister set out for the House on 14 March.

*Japan*

Ministers briefly took stock of the EU's response following discussions in the FAC. They noted that Energy Ministers were meeting separately in Brussels on the same day to discuss the nuclear crisis.

On the proposed European Council conclusions language, I stressed that while we wanted to ensure the highest safety standards in nuclear plants, we should remember that there was already much legislation in place and very capable national authorities were taking action. We should not do anything that undermined the clear responsibility which rested with member states in this area.

## Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague):** The latest report on the implementation of the Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong was published today. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House. A copy of the report is also available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website (www.fco.gov.uk). The report covers the period from 1 July to 31 December 2010. I commend the report to the House.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Entry Clearance Decisions (Removal of Full Appeal Rights)

**The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green):** My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is today laying before the House a copy of the United Kingdom Border Agency report on removal of full appeal rights against refusal of entry clearance decisions under the points-based system. Copies will be available in the Vote Office and online at http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/.

Section 4(3) of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 requires provision of a report on the effects of section 4(1) of the 2006 Act, which is the mechanism by which appeal rights against refusal of entry clearance decisions overseas were removed for those applying under the points-based system.

The report is required within the period of three years from the commencement of section 4(1) on 1 April 2008, when the points-based system was first implemented overseas. Full appeal rights against such refusals were removed as each tier of the points-based system was implemented overseas. A new process of administrative review was introduced overseas under the points-based system to enable refused applicants to challenge any factual errors made in the decision-making process.

To meet the requirements as set out in the Act, the report provides statistical data on entry clearance decisions and administrative review requests made, it details the processes and criteria in place under the points-based system and records opinions made by the UK Border Agency independent chief inspector. To report on the effects of removal of full appeal rights, some comparisons have been made between the appeal system and administrative review process.

# Petition

*Tuesday 15 March 2011*

## OBSERVATIONS

## EDUCATION

### Branfil Primary School (Upminster)

*The Humble Petition of parents of pupils at Branfil Primary School (Upminster),*

Sheweth, that the Petitioners believe that there is an urgent need to rebuild Branfil Primary School; notes that part of the school have needed to close on many occasions, following the recent flooding of the Foundation Stage building, and other failings of services over the years; that children and teachers are missing out on important schooling, or that schooling is being compromised, by the fact that these facilities are not fit for purpose and need to be rebuilt this year; and that the petitioners believe that this is an embarrassment and that it is not acceptable for these buildings to be used for another winter.

Sheweth, that prefabs were originally constructed as temporary measures, but they are still standing 60 years on; that these structures may be suitable for garage or shed purposes, but they are not suitable for educational needs; that all classrooms are extremely cold throughout the winter, as there is no insulation; that the toilets are very cold and exposed to the elements all year round, because the doors are kept open because they are too heavy and dangerous for the children to use; that heating failures and burst pipes have closed the school, and seem to be a usual winter occurrence; that corridors are becoming wet and dangerous in wet periods, which is a risk to pregnant teachers; that there is asbestos present in the roofing material and perhaps in other areas, which is a health hazard; that the cost of heating and repairing the building must be very high over the long term; and notes that these are only a few of the health and safety and cost issues which should be taken seriously.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Government to take all possible steps to ensure that Branfil Primary School is rebuilt.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Angela Watkinson, Official Report,* 31 January 2011; Vol. 522, c. 5P.*]*

[P000883]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Education:*

On 20 October, the Chancellor announced that Department for Education capital spending would be £15.8 billion over the four year comprehensive spending review period. Although, the average annual capital budget over the period will be higher than the average annual capital budget in the 1997-98 to 2004-05 period, this does represent a sharp reduction from very high levels of spending in 2010-11. Over the next few years our priority is to reduce the country's budget deficit. This is essential, as the amount we are currently spending on debt interest payments could be used to rebuild or refurbish 10 schools every day.

We know that there are schools such as Branfil Primary school in need of refurbishment which have missed out from previous Government capital programmes, and that people feel they have therefore been treated unfairly.

We will be introducing a new approach to capital allocation which will prioritise ensuring enough places and addressing poor conditions as quickly as we can. This model will be outlined in the capital review which will report in the next few weeks. Within the funding available to us, our intention is that the new model will prioritise areas which are experiencing high pressures to increase the number of school places, and those with buildings in the most need of repair.

Even where funding is tight, it is essential that buildings and equipment are properly maintained, to ensure the health and safety standards are met, and to prevent a backlog of decay building up that is expensive to address. Therefore, in 2011-12, £1,337 million will be available for capital maintenance for schools, with over £1 billion being allocated for local areas to prioritise maintenance needs. In addition, £195 million will be allocated directly to schools for their own use.

The capital allocation for 2011-12 for the London borough of Havering and its schools was announced on 13 December. The council now needs to consider how it prioritises the available funding, having regard to the building needs of the schools in its area.

# Petitions

*Wednesday 16 March 2011*

## PRESENTED PETITIONS

*Petitions presented to the House but not read on the Floor*

### Education Maintenance Allowance

*The Petition of residents of Leicester and the surrounding area,*

Declares that the Petitioners oppose the abolition of the Education Maintenance Allowance; notes that a substantial number of young people are in receipt of the Education Maintenance Allowance in Leicester; and further notes that education can provide a better future for young people.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government not to abolish the Education Maintenance Allowance.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Liz Kendall.]*

[P000900]

### Arms Exports

*The Petition of residents of Wirksworth and the Derbyshire Dales,*

Declares that the petitioners strongly oppose the current sale of UK arms to any country currently engaged in conflict, or any country known to be a repressive regime which pays scant regard to human rights; and further declares that the petitioners believe that the hurried revocation of UK export licences for arms and crowd control equipment which had been freely sold to Libya makes their point all too vividly.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take all possible steps to prevent the further sale of UK arms and riot control equipment to any country engaged in conflict or with a record of human rights abuse.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000903]

# Petition

*Wednesday 23 March 2011*

## OBSERVATIONS

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Proposed Sale of Zurbaran Paintings

*The Petition of residents of Bishop Auckland, County Durham and the North East,*

Declares that the Petitioners believe that the Church Commissioners should not sell Auckland Castle or the Zurbarán Paintings.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Church Commissioners not to proceed with the sale.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Helen Goodman, Official Report,* 16 February 2011; Vol. 523, c. 1095 .]

[P000888]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport:*

The Government recognise the strong support in the north-east and elsewhere for preserving Auckland castle and its wonderful collection of paintings by Francisco de Zurbarán. The paintings are not just important works in their own right but have become important symbols of religious, ethnic and social tolerance, issues which were all highly significant at the time and which remain so today. The castle and paintings are the property of the Church Commissioners and it is not for the Government to seek to influence decisions concerning their future. The Government hope, however, that a solution can be found that will satisfy the needs of the Church and ensure that the castle and paintings can continue to be enjoyed by the public.

# Petition

*Thursday 24 March 2011*

## PRESENTED PETITION

*Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor*

### Student Visas

*The Petition of residents of Sheffield,*

Declares that international students are a great social, cultural and economic asset and a key contributor to British Higher Education; that international students bring billions of pounds to the British economy, help forge vital business contacts and are important ambassadors for British culture globally; that the Petitioners do not agree with labelling international students as "immigrants" as they reside in the UK temporarily, make significant contributions and are in no way a burden to the country; that the petitioners believe that the proposed measures in the Home Office consultation on student immigration would restrict the freedom of choice of international students and would significantly damage their university experience; and that international students should retain their rights to find work experience in the UK for up to two years, to work while studying, bring their dependants to the UK, to apply for visa for a new course within the UK, and to study a second course of the same qualification.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government not to accept the changes proposed in the Home Office consultation on the current student immigration system.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000910]

# Written Answers to Questions

*Monday 14 March 2011*

## WALES

### Departmental Written Questions

**Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what proportion of written questions tabled to her for answer on a named day between 27 May 2010 and 9 March 2011 did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer. [46563]

**Mr David Jones:** None. All named day questions tabled within that period received a substantive answer on the day named for answer.

### Prisons

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when she last met the Secretary of State for Justice to discuss proposals for a prison in North Wales. [46616]

**Mr David Jones:** The Secretary of State for Wales last met the Minister for Prisons and Probation, the hon. Member for Reigate (Mr Blunt), in November and discussed the provision of prison places in North Wales.

The consultation on the Ministry of Justice's Green Paper 'Breaking the cycle: effective punishment, rehabilitation and sentencing of offenders' ended on 4 March. Responses are currently being considered and long-term plans for prison capacity are being evaluated.

The Secretary of State and I will continue to work closely with the Minister for Prisons, as decisions on the prison estate are made, to ensure that the implications for North Wales are fully taken into account.

### St David's Day

**Kevin Brennan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 744W, on St David's day, (1) what criteria she used to determine which hon. Members representing Welsh constituencies to include on her invitation list to attend her St David's day event at Gwydyr house on 1 March 2011; [46613]

(2) who attended her St David's day reception on 1 March 2011. [46614]

**Mrs Gillan:** Right hon. and hon. Members representing the coalition parties, official Opposition spokespeople, media and various representatives of Welsh society were invited, totalling of approximately 50 attendees.

## INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

### Data Protection

**Bob Russell:** To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what discussions the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) had in respect of *(a)* security and *(b)* data protection before permission was granted for the BBC to film the personal details of hon. Members at IPSA offices for broadcast on 3 February 2011. [40435]

**Mr Charles Walker:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

*Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated March 2011:*

As Acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what discussions the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) had in respect of (a) security and (b) data protection before permission was granted for the BBC to film the personal details of hon. Members at IPSA offices for broadcast on 3 February 2011.

IPSA took careful steps in the planning of the filming to ensure no personal data of MPs was disclosed. The BBC were asked to provide, and gave, strict assurances that no personal data of MPs would be shown in any of their camera shots.

Appropriate steps were taken in the planning of and execution of the filming to ensure no such details were shown and the BBC gave an undertaking that it would not show any such data were any to be filmed inadvertently.

### Departmental Publications

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, whether the board of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority authorised the comments made by Mr Ken Olisa in his interview with *Total Politics* magazine published on 5 January 2011. [41679]

**Mr Charles Walker:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

*Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated March 2011:*

As Acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking whether the board of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority authorised the comments made by Mr Ken Olisa in his interview with *Total Politics* magazine published on 5 January 2011.

The Board does not seek to authorise comments made by members in the course of dealings with the media.

### Departmental Recruitment

**Bob Russell:** To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, for what purposes the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority engaged the recruitment agency Saxton Bampfylde; and how much was paid to that agency in fees. [41806]

**Mr Charles Walker:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

*Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated March 2011:*

As Acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for what purposes Saxton Bampfylde recruitment agency was engaged and the amount that was paid to that agency.

IPSA has not engaged the services of Saxton Bampfylde and no money has been paid to this agency.

### Employment

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many people have terminated their employment at the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority since its inception. [45128]

**Mr Charles Walker:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

*Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated March 2011:*

As Acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people have terminated their employment at IPSA since its inception.

Three members of staff have resigned since IPSA's inception.

### Manpower

**Bob Russell:** To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many hours each member of the Board of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) has spent on their duties at *(a)* the offices of IPSA and *(b)* elsewhere in each month since their appointment. [40436]

**Mr Charles Walker:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

*Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated March 2011:*

As Acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many hours each member of the Board of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) have spent on their duties at (a) the offices of IPSA and (b) elsewhere in each month since their appointment. (40436)

The table below details the number of days and hours between December 2009 and January 2011 for which the Chairman and Board members have received remuneration. IPSA does not collect information that distinguishes between the number of hours the Board have spent on their duties at the offices of IPSA or elsewhere. The hours charged under-represent the actual number of hours Board members have committed to IPSA.

*Days/hours claimed per month*

| *Month* | *Prof. Sir Ian Kennedy* | *Prof. Isobel Sharp* | *Ken Olisa* | *Rt Hon Sir Scott Baker* | *Jacqueline Ballard* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *2009* | | | | | |
| December | — | 1 day | 2 days | 2 days | 1.5 days |
| *2010* | | | | | |
| January | 9.5 days | 1 day | 2 days | 2 days | 2 days |
| February | 10.5 days | 5.5 days | 6 days | 6.5 days | 5 days |
| March | 11 days | 2 days | 1.5 days | 2.5 days | 2.5 days |
| April | 2 days | 1 day | 1 day | 1.5 days | 1 day |
| May | 2 days | 2.5 days | 1.5 days | 0 | 1.5 days |
| June | 4.75 days | 1 day | 0 | 4 days | 3.5 days |
| July | 8 days | 2 days | 1.25 days | 2.5 days | 1.5 days |
| August | 12.25 days | 0 | 4.75 days | 1.5 day | 0 |
| September | 7 days 5.5 hours | 0 | 0 | 2 days 4.5 hours | 2 days 4 hours |
| October | 9 days | 2 days | 6 days 9.25 hours | 0 | 1.5 days 1 hour |
| November | 5 days 4 hours | 3 days | 0 | 5 days 6.5 hours | 1 day 2.5 hours |
| December | 11 days 2.5 hours | 1 day | 0 | 2 days 3 hours | 2 days 2.25 hours |
| *2011* | | | | | |
| January | 6 days 4.5 hours | 0 | 4 days 9.5 hours | 1 day | 0 |

### Pay

**Bob Russell:** To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how much has been paid in salary to members of the Board of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority in each month since their appointment. [40438]

**Mr Charles Walker:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

*Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated March 2011:*

As Acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how much has been paid in salary to members of the board of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority in each month since their appointment.

The Chairman and the Board of IPSA are not salaried; instead, they are paid a *per diem* rate for their time, at the rate advertised at the time of their recruitment. The payments made from April 2010 to January 2011 are set out in the table below. Amounts paid prior to 1 April 2010 were published in IPSA's annual report for 2010-11, which is available on the IPSA website at:

www.parliamentarystandards.org.uk

*Amount paid per month*[1]

£

| | *Prof. Sir Ian Kennedy* | *Prof. Isobel Sharp* | *Ken Olisa* | *Right hon. Sir Scott Baker* | *Jacqueline Ballard* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| April | 1,400.00 | 400.00 | 400.00 | 600.00 | 400.00 |
| May | 1,400.00 | 1,000.00 | 600.00 | 0.00 | 600.00 |
| June | 3,325.00 | 400.00 | 0.00 | 1,600.00 | 1,400.00 |
| July | 5,600.00 | 800.00 | 500.00 | 1,000.00 | 600.00 |
| August | 8,575.00 | 0.00 | 1,900.00 | 600.00 | 0.00 |
| September | 5,413,33 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 800.00 | 1,520.00 |
| October | 6,300.00 | 800.00 | 2,893.30 | 0.00 | 146.65 |
| November | 3,873.32 | 1,200.00 | 0.00 | 2,346.65 | 533.33 |
| December | 7,933.33 | 400.00 | 0.00 | 800.00 | 919.99 |
| January | 4,619.99 | 0.00 | 2,106.64 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

[1] Please note that the timings for payments as set out in this table correlate to the time at which board members have submitted invoices and time sheets to IPSA. A single submission may cover multiple periods.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Beef: Imports

**Sandra Osborne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the prevalence of foot and mouth disease in countries from which beef may be imported to the UK. [45212]

**Mr Paice:** Before a non-European Union (EU) country is approved to export to the EU, the exporting country must have acceptable disease status, the recognised standard for relevant control authorities and guarantees from the country of origin with regard to compliance with EU import rules and results of EU missions to these countries. A list of those countries approved for export of beef can be found in Commission Regulation (EU) No. 206/2010. For countries which are regionalised for beef exports (certain countries in Southern Africa and South America) all exported meat is required to be deboned and matured in approved premises as a risk mitigation measure.

All meat imported from non-EU countries must be accompanied by veterinary certification. This must confirm that the meat is derived from animals that have been subjected to a veterinary inspection during the 24 hours prior to slaughter and showed no signs of disease. Imports of products of animal origin (POAO) are checked at approved facilities at Border Inspection Posts (BIPS). All consignments of imported meat have a documentary check on the veterinary certification, and an identity check, to match the goods to the certification. A minimum of 20% of consignments of meat imported from non-EU countries undergoes a physical check by an official veterinary surgeon, and this rises to 50% for poultry and game.

DEFRA monitors outbreaks of high impact diseases around the world. Foot and mouth disease (FMD) is among those diseases of major concern. When DEFRA becomes aware of a new disease outbreak in an export region or country, it carries out an initial rapid risk assessment of the risk of introduction of that disease into the UK in live animals or POAO and may produce a preliminary outbreak assessment. If this preliminary assessment concludes that a full qualitative risk assessment is not justified, then we will publish the preliminary outbreak assessment here:

www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/monitoring/index.htm

### Fisheries

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what account her Department's food procurement policy takes of compliance with the UN sustainability standard that all wild-caught fish should meet the terms of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. [45498]

**Mr Paice:** The Government's policy is to promote the consumption of fish from sustainable sources. We want to be the greenest Government ever and to help meet this commitment we are developing Government Buying Standards (GBS) for the public procurement of food and catering services. These standards will be mandatory for central Government Departments and promoted to the wider public sector.

An external review asking for evidence and comments regarding our proposed GBS ended on 24 January and we are now considering all the comments received, including those about sustainably sourced seafood, before making a decision on what the final GBS for food and catering services should be. I cannot predict the outcome of this process, as it requires cross-Government agreement.

### Forests

**Naomi Long:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the composition of her proposed panel to consider the future of forestry in England will be; and what consideration she has given to appointing to this panel members of environmental and charitable organisations with expertise in the issue. [46322]

**Mr Paice:** The panel's membership is still being considered. It will include representatives of key environmental and access organisations, alongside representatives of the forestry industry. It will need to draw on a broad range of expertise to inform its work.

### Forests: Devon

**Mel Stride:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which forests and woodlands in Central Devon constituency are owned by the Forestry Commission; [37573]

(2) which forests and woodlands owned by the Forestry Commission in Central Devon constituency she plans to include in the first tranche of sales; [37574]

(3) which areas of forest and woodland owned by the Forestry Commission and in central Devon constituency fall within the *(a)* heritage, *(b)* small scale and *(c)* large commercial category. [37575]

**Mr Paice:** The consultation on the future of the public forest estate has been halted and all forestry clauses in the Public Bodies Bill will be removed. All new sales have been suspended as announced by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the right hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), on 11 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 21WS. An independent panel of experts will now examine forestry policy in England and report back to Ministers in the autumn.

The following table lists woods and forests managed by the Forestry Commission in Central Devon.

| *Wood* | *Ownership type*[1] | *Area (ha)* |
|---|---|---|
| Berrydown, Abbeyford | Freehold | 208 |
| Canonteign | Freehold | 170 |
| Eggesford | Freehold | 311 |
| Great Plantation | Freehold | 132 |
| Great Plantation pt road side | Freehold | 5 |
| Haldon1 | Freehold | 60 |
| Haldon2 | Mixed freehold and leasehold | 724 |
| Haldon3 | Freehold | 229 |
| Haldon5 | Leasehold | 67 |
| Oldridge | Freehold | 170 |
| Powderham, Cleave | Leasehold | 63 |
| Sousons | Leasehold | 215 |
| Stoke Woods | Freehold | 35 |
| Wadland, Ashbury, Homing Down | Freehold | 180 |
| Wadland, Ashbury, Homing Down | Freehold | 8 |

[1] The public forest estate is owned by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and placed at the disposal of the Forestry Commissioners under section (3)1 of the Forestry Act 1967.

### Forests: Kettering

**Mr Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 768W, on Forestry Commission: lands, what the *(a)* name and *(b)* location is of the leasehold public forest estate in Kettering constituency. [45927]

**Mr Paice:** There is one area of woodland in Kettering constituency that is part of the Forestry Commission public forest estate. This is Brampton Wood, grid reference SP 798857.

### Sky Lanterns: Regulation

**James Wharton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department is considering taking steps to regulate the use of Chinese lanterns. [33427]

**Mr Paice:** We recognise the concerns of livestock and horse keepers about the risks Chinese (or sky) lanterns can present to their animals' welfare. We are working with other Government Departments to see what action could be taken to reduce these risks and have had several meetings with the farming unions and the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) to discuss what could be done. We are working with them to build an evidence base of the problems caused and to help raise awareness among consumers and venues. BIS is also working with local authority trading standards to encourage importers, distributors and retailers to improve the safety of these products and to make them fully biodegradable.

### Telehandlers

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will review the health and safety guidance provided by her Department on the safe use of telehandlers. [44000]

**Chris Grayling:** I have been asked to reply.

The question has been passed to me for reply as the Minister responsible for health and safety at work.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has not issued specific guidance on the safe use of telescopic materials handlers (telehandlers) in agriculture. It has published general guidance on the selection, use and maintenance of work equipment in the industry, which advises on compliance with relevant legislation. HSE has also published an Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) and guidance on training for operators of lift trucks, which applies to telehandlers.

Industry specific guidance on the safe use of telehandlers in construction was launched by the Strategic Forum for Construction in February 2011. The guidance provides clarity on the safe use of telehandlers; including planning, role of personnel, training and familiarization of personnel, safe use, maintenance, inspection and thorough examination. These basic principles are applicable to the use of telehandlers in any work environment or industry.

HSE will be reviewing external guidance during 2011. Any revisions to guidance will be posted on HSE's website at:

www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture

## WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

### Regulation

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what regulations the Government Equalities Office has *(a)* introduced and *(b)* revoked between 2 February and 28 February 2011. [46016]

**Lynne Featherstone:** Between 2 February and 28 February 2011, the Government Equalities Office did not introduce or repeal any regulations.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Broadband: Berkshire

**Alok Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what proportion of the funding allocated to broadband programmes in the comprehensive spending review period he expects to be spent on programmes based in Reading West constituency. [46630]

**Mr Vaizey:** No specific allocations for projects in Reading West or any other constituency have been made. My officials continue to work closely with county councils on plans to support broadband roll out.

### Digital Technology: Industry

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* lending to and *(b)* financing of digital technology industries; and if he will make a statement. [46130]

**Mr Vaizey:** My Department together with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has recently commissioned research into financing and lending for the Creative Industries in order to provide evidence for the Digital and Creative Industries Growth Review which reports to a Budget 2011 timetable.

### Sports: Scotland

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2011, *Official Report,* column 26W, on sports: health, what matters were discussed in relation to the issue of whether Team GB should be changed to Team UK; and what decisions were reached. [45827]

**Hugh Robertson:** The Sports Cabinet discussed a paper tabled by Northern Ireland Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure, Nelson McCausland, regarding the name and branding of Team GB. The meeting agreed that the Welsh Minister for Heritage, in his capacity as Chair of the meeting, would write on behalf of the Sports Cabinet to ask the British Olympic Association to consider changing the name and branding of Team GB to better reflect the whole of the UK.

### Technology: Greater London

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what organisations he has met to discuss the East London Tech City development; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each such meeting. [44875]

**Mr Vaizey** *[holding answer 7 March 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), met the following organisations during his visit to San Francisco in October 2010 where the East London Tech City development was discussed:

Yelp
Twitter
Hewlett Packard
Apple
Sequoia Capital
Facebook
Google
Silicon Valley Bank
Cisco
Intel
Warner Brothers

The minutes of these meetings cannot be made public as they contain commercially sensitive material.

## SCOTLAND

### Consumer Protection

**Graeme Morrice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* Citizens Advice Scotland, *(b)* Consumer Focus Scotland and *(c)* the Scottish Executive on the future of consumer protection and advocacy arrangements in Scotland. [45591]

**Michael Moore:** I met the chief executive of Citizens Advice Scotland on 28 February 2011. I intend to meet Consumer Focus Scotland to discuss the future of consumer protection and advocacy arrangements in Scotland after the launch of the forthcoming consultation by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills. Discussions have taken place at official level with the Scottish Government on implications of changes to current arrangements in Scotland.

### Departmental Land

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will take steps to reduce the size of his Department's estate; and if he will make a statement. [46741]

**David Mundell:** The Scotland Office estate comprises two leased buildings: one in London and one in Edinburgh. The Scotland Office takes every opportunity to maximise the use of the estate and to reduce running costs.

### Departmental Procurement

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many procurement projects with a monetary value greater than *(a)* £10 million, *(b)* £50 million and *(c)* £100 million his Department was engaged in in the latest period for which figures are available. [45694]

**David Mundell:** The Scotland Office had no procurement projects with a monetary value greater than £10 million in 2009-10 and has none in the current financial year 2010-11.

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which procurement projects engaged in by his Department had a designated senior responsible owner in the latest period for which figures are available; and on what date they were appointed in each such case. [45695]

**David Mundell:** Other than minor purchases, the Scotland Office does not undertake direct procurement or tendering projects. It utilises existing service contracts between suppliers and the Scottish Government or the Ministry of Justice.

### Departmental Visits Abroad

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 610-11W, on visits, what criteria he proposes to use to determine the *(a)* justification of costs and *(b)* value to taxpayers of overseas visits. [45828]

**David Mundell:** Any proposed expenditure for ministerial and official travel will continue to be examined rigorously to ensure value for money and effectiveness, in accordance with the Ministerial Code and HM Treasury guidance on the use of public funds.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what proportion of written questions tabled to him for answer on a named day between 27 May 2010 and 9 March 2011 did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer. [46562]

**David Mundell:** 123 written questions were tabled to the Secretary of State for answer on a named day between 27 May 2010 and 9 March 2011. Of these, seven received a substantive answer after the named day.

### Energy: Prices

**Graeme Morrice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions his Department has had with Scottish representatives of the six largest energy companies on levels of domestic energy bills. [45590]

**David Mundell:** The Scotland Office has regular discussions with Scottish representatives of the energy sector on a range of issues including domestic energy bills. In December, the Secretary of State spoke to senior executives of E.ON, EDF, RWE npower, Scottish Gas, Scottish Power and SSE in response to concerns about increases in domestic energy bills over the winter period. The Scotland Office has also been working closely with the Department for Energy and Climate Change on the introduction of the Warm Home Discount scheme, which forms part of the Government's proposals for helping vulnerable customers.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Departmental Procurement

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many procurement projects with a monetary value greater than *(a)* £10 million, *(b)* £50 million and *(c)* £100 million (i) his Department and (ii) the non-departmental public body for which he is responsible was engaged upon in the latest period for which figures are available. [45573]

**Mr Swire:** My Department and the non-departmental public body for which I am responsible did not have any procurement projects with a monetary value greater than *(a)* £10 million, *(b)* £50 million and *(c)* £100 million in 2009-10.

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which procurement projects engaged upon by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public body for which he is responsible had a designated senior responsible owner in the latest period for which figures are available; and on what date each officer was appointed in each such case. [45574]

**Mr Swire:** My Department and the non-departmental public body for which I am responsible have not had any procurement projects which deemed a designated senior responsible owner be appointed.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of written questions tabled to him for answer on a named day between 27 May 2010 and 9 March 2011 did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer. [46564]

**Mr Swire:** Between 27 May 2010 and 9 March 2011, 11 written questions for named day answer were tabled to the Northern Ireland Office, of which three (27%) did not receive a substantive answer on the date specified.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan

17. **Mr Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [45712]

25. **Dr Poulter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [45720]

**Dr Fox:** I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Carshalton and Wallington (Tom Brake).

### Military Covenant

21. **Mr Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had on the Military Covenant with veterans' charities. [45716]

**Mr Robathan:** Officials in the Ministry of Defence hold regular discussions with the Confederation of British Service and ex-Service organisations, representing a wide range of charities, and with the Royal British Legion and the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association Forces Help. All of these are members of the External Reference Group which delivers an independent judgment on the Government's efforts in supporting the armed forces community. The Covenant has featured in these discussions. I last discussed the Covenant with the Royal British Legion on 7 March.

## Operation Herrick

22. **Ms Bagshawe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations he has received on the provision of equipment for Operation Herrick; and if he will make a statement. [45717]

**Peter Luff:** Priority continues to be given to the delivery of capability to our armed forces to support operations in Afghanistan. Our equipment requirements are kept under constant review, taking military advice, including advice from our Commanders in Afghanistan; as the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Defence have made clear on many occasions, this Government are determined to make sure that our brave service personnel have all the equipment and protection they need for the absolutely vital work they are undertaking in Afghanistan.

## Reserve Forces

24. **Mr Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what date he expects his Department's Reserve Forces study to be completed. [45719]

**Mr Robathan:** The Future Reserves 2020 Study, announced by the Prime Minister on 19 October 2010, is to conclude in the summer.

## Conflict Prevention

**Mr Donaldson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to enhance the role of the armed forces in conflict prevention. [45711]

**Mr Gerald Howarth:** The strategic defence and security review commits the armed forces to work closely with other Government Departments to help identify and prevent potential conflicts. This includes co-ordinating non-operational activities such as security sector reform, training of security forces, joint exercises and strengthening our relationships with partner nations and international organisations such as NATO, the UN and the EU. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development and MOD are developing the new Building Stability Overseas Strategy which will integrate our diplomatic, development and defence resources to promote regional stability.

## Armed Forces: Redundancies

**Karl Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of potential regional variations in redundancies from the armed forces. [45718]

**Mr Robathan:** The current armed forces redundancy programme is driven by force structure changes, as required by the strategic defence and security review, and therefore regional variations are not a consideration.

## Armed Forces: Injuries

**Lorely Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the average level of compensation awarded to military amputees was in the last year for which figures are available; [45117]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average cost incurred by military amputees for carrying out adaptations to their homes in the latest period for which figures are available. [45118]

**Mr Robathan:** The following table provides the number of claims awarded under the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) within the tariff of injury table for amputations for financial year 2009-10. The breakdown is by tariff level at which the amputation was awarded (for more than one condition the figure includes the condition awarded at the most serious tariff level only) and provides the lump sum amounts that are currently awarded at each tariff level. Claims are awarded under the AFCS based on 15 tariff levels, with a lump sum attached to each level. For the more severe injuries, tariffs one to 11, a further sum is paid in the form of a guaranteed income payment (GIP), which consists of regular payments to provide a continuous income stream.

| *Tariff level* | *Lump sum amount (£)* | *Number of claims awarded in FY 2009-10* |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 570,000 | 0 |
| 2 | 402,500 | — |
| 3 | 230,000 | — |
| 4 | 172,500 | — |
| 5 | 115,000 | 15 |
| 6 | 92,000 | 5 |
| 7 | 63,825 | 0 |
| 8 | 48,875 | 0 |
| 9 | 34,100 | 0 |
| 10 | 23,100 | 0 |
| 11 | 13,750 | 0 |
| 12 | 9,075 | — |
| 13 | 5,775 | — |
| 14 | 2,888 | 10 |
| 15 | 1,155 | 0 |

*Note:*

All figures of five or more have been rounded to the nearest five and figures fewer than five have been suppressed and marked '—'.

Costs associated with adaptations to the homes of serving amputees are met by the Ministry of Defence. Injured former service personnel in England, Scotland and Wales have been granted a higher status than other groups who require adapted housing and they also have priority access to affordable housing schemes in the United Kingdom. Compensation payments given to injured personnel are disregarded in England and Wales when assessing the affordability criteria, and for the Disabilities Facilities Grant in all areas of the UK. In Scotland they take account of the personal financial circumstances of the injured service person when assessing affordability.

## Armed Forces: Northern Ireland

**Mr Donaldson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel *(a)* on operational development and *(b)* in total were garrisoned in Northern Ireland in the latest period for which figures are available. [46602]

**Nick Harvey:** As at December 2010, there was a total of 3,860 regular service personnel garrisoned in Northern Ireland (including those on operational deployment).

### Armed Forces: Redundancy

**Mr Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of members of the armed forces who will be made compulsorily redundant in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [46511]

**Mr Robathan:** The strategic defence and security review set out the long term plans for our armed forces and made clear that the future force structure will require fewer people. The combined size of the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force will fall by some 17,000, by 31 March 2015. Some of this reduction will be achieved by slowing down recruitment and through natural wastage, and the Department has estimated that up to around 11,000 personnel will need to be made redundant.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the oral statement of 15 February 2011, *Official Re*port, columns 815-16, on armed forces (redundancies), when he expects his Department's investigation into the notification of redundancy by email of 38 Army personnel to conclude; and whether he expects to publish its conclusions. [46084]

**Mr Robathan:** The Ministry of Defence fully recognises the distress that this caused the individuals and their families, and I take this opportunity once again to apologise unreservedly for this error.

We do not intend to publish the conclusions of the investigation, which was completed on 23 February 2011. This investigation has confirmed that this was the result of a genuine and isolated error which meant that the normal staffing procedures were not followed. This meant that the 38 individuals affected had not been informed of this decision by the Chain of Command before they received the email from the Army Personnel Centre (APC), which would usually be the case. As a result of the investigation, every effort has been made to minimise the risk of this sort of thing happening again. These include clearance at APC Branch Colonel level of all communication that is about or may result in termination.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the oral statement of 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 815-16, on armed forces (redundancies), what role *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department is taking in the investigation into the notification of redundancy by email of 38 Army personnel. [46085]

**Mr Robathan:** None. As was previously explained 15 February 2001, *Official Report*, columns 817-18, this is properly a matter for the Army Chain of Command.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the oral statement of 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 815-16, on armed forces (redundancies), how many of his Department's staff are taking part in the investigation into the circumstances relating to the notification of redundancy by email of 38 Army personnel. [46087]

**Mr Robathan:** Three Army personnel were involved in the investigation, which concluded on 23 February 2011.

### Departmental Relocation: Brighton

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will bring forward proposals to relocate *(a)* staff and *(b)* offices of his Department to Brighton; and if he will make a statement. [43477]

**Mr Robathan:** The Ministry of Defence has no plans to move either staff or offices to Brighton. The relocation of Department staff outside of London continues to be considered amongst other options to deliver the savings set out at the spending review and increase the efficiency of the Government's estate.

### Cybercrime

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with their (i) EU, (ii) NATO and (iii) UN counterparts on the establishment of international frameworks to deal with cyber-attacks. [45335]

**Nick Harvey** *[holding answer 10 March 2011]:* Action to enhance our cyber security is a national priority and we have allotted funding of £650 million over the next four years as part of the National Cyber Security Programme to address these concerns. Of course, the Government cannot and should not attempt to tackle this issue by itself and we are actively discussing options for collaboration with both international partners and with industry. As the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the right hon. Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), said to the Munich Security Conference,

> "being global, cyber threats also call for a collective response".

To this end, the Secretary of State and I have had wide ranging and productive conversations with our international partners throughout NATO, the EU and beyond.

Over 10 and 11 March 2011, the Secretary of State for Defence discussed the NATO Cyber Defence Concept with his ministerial counterparts in Brussels. This will set the parameters for NATO's future cyber defence policy. We have already signed a Cyber Defence Memorandum of Understanding with NATO that allows us to share information and hope to sign further bilateral agreements with countries whose capabilities are complementary to our own. The FCO and Home Office will lead on engagements with the EU and UN, with the Cabinet Office co-ordinating our overall international engagement strategy.

### Departmental Billing

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in January and February 2011. [45075]

**Mr Robathan:** 10-day payment information currently available for the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and its Trading Funds, for January and February 2011, is provided in the following table:

| | *Percentage of invoices paid within 10 days of receipt by the Defence Financial Management Shared Service Centre* |
|---|---|
| January 2011 | 98.3 |
| February 2011 | 98.5 |

Since 1 May 2010 the MOD began measuring performance against a target of payment within five working days. Data available against the new target is published on the MOD's website

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/WhatWeDo/FinanceandProcurement/FMSSC/MinistryOfDefencePaymentPerformance.htm

and provided in the following table:

| | *Percentage of invoices paid within 5 days of receipt by the Defence Financial Management Shared Service Centre* |
|---|---|
| January 2011 | 94.0 |
| February 2011 | 94.4 |

### Departmental Redundancy

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether an early release programme has been established for civilian personnel to be made redundant as a result of the outcome of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [45747]

**Mr Robathan:** An early release scheme was launched on 28 February with the aim of achieving around 4,000 voluntary staff exits by 31 March 2012. No decision has yet been taken on the requirement for and nature of any paid release programmes after the end of 2011-12.

### Electronic Warfare

**Mr Donaldson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the potential effects of deploying electronic countermeasures in military bases on the health of armed forces personnel deployed in those bases. [46603]

**Mr Robathan:** All electronic countermeasures equipment is tested to confirm that it is safe to be used by military personnel. Specifically the Ministry of Defence (MOD) work with the Health Protection Agency Radiological Protection Division to establish restrictions on and compliance with human exposure to static and time varying electromagnetic fields and radiation.

Specific research has been conducted where certain safety limits have been exceeded prior to deployment and corrective action has been taken to maintain safety compliance.

Electronic countermeasures are specifically designed to save the lives of military personnel and wider knowledge would compromise this capability. For the purposes of National security and continued protection of military personnel on operations in Afghanistan, the MOD does not release specific detail about the nature of electronic countermeasures.

### Germany: Military Bases

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2011, *Official Report,* column 582W, on returning troop costs (Germany), what assessment he has made of the effects of withdrawal of all forces from Germany by 2020 on *(a)* operational effectiveness and *(b)* welfare. [45829]

**Nick Harvey:** The basing of British forces in Germany is largely a legacy of the cold war, when very different geo-strategic considerations prevailed. It now makes operational sense to consolidate British forces within the UK. This will enable us to generate capability and prepare for operations without the logistical and administrative difficulties presented by a field army split between two countries.

Regarding welfare issues, the Army will benefit from the rebasing policy in a number of ways: service personnel and their families will face less disruption from long-distance relocations; they will be able to utilise the full range of public services provided in the UK, rather than relying on substitute services in Germany; and the Army will be able to provide more consistent support and welfare.

The precise nature of these effects will, of course, be contingent on the detail of the rebasing policy, which is still being prepared.

### Guided Missiles

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful firings of the Meteor beyond visual range air-to-air missile there have been from each aircraft type since 2009. [45007]

**Peter Luff:** Meteor is a six-nation collaborative programme involving the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Sweden. There have been a total of six firings involving Gripen and Tornado aircraft since the beginning of 2009. I am withholding more detailed information on the Meteor firing programme on the grounds that its disclosure would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the UK and partner nations' armed forces and would be likely to prejudice international relations with the other Meteor partner nations.

### Puma Helicopters

**Mr Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which company was awarded the contract to refit Puma helicopters; and what the monetary value of the contract is; [44833]

(2) whether the contract to refit Puma helicopters is included in his Department's review of contracts underway; and if he will make a statement; [44834]

(3) whether his Department considered purchasing new helicopters as an alternative to refitting the Puma helicopters before awarding the refit contract; [44835]

(4) whether his Department has considered purchasing new helicopters in place of proceeding with the refit of Puma helicopters since letting the refit contract; [44836]

(5) what estimate he has made of the cost of refitting a Puma helicopter under the refit contract let in 2009. [44837]

**Peter Luff:** A contract was signed with Eurocopter UK in September 2009 for the demonstration and manufacture phases of the Puma Life Extension Programme (LEP). In addition a contract was placed with Turbomeca for the supply of new Makila engines. The total value of contracts placed in support of the Puma LEP is £347 million. This includes the one-off costs associated with developing the required modifications and undertaking the trials activity necessary to certify the aircraft; the provision of initial support and conversion training for aircrew and maintainers; and the cost of modifying each helicopter.

The contract renegotiation programme in support of the decision taken in the Strategic Defence and Security Review is under way. It is not appropriate to make a statement about individual contracts at this stage.

In 2009, prior to the award of the current contracts, a detailed review was undertaken of whether the acquisition of new medium helicopters could be advanced in lieu of the planned life-extension of Puma. This review concluded that, within available resources, it would not be feasible to acquire new helicopters without unacceptable risk to operational commitments.

The Strategic Defence and Security Review undertaken in 2010 reviewed the need for Puma and confirmed the ongoing requirement. As with all programmes this is subject to the ongoing planning round which is expected to conclude in spring 2011.

## RAF Valley

**Mr Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to question 44880, with which private sector companies his Department holds contracts for work at RAF Valley. [45444]

**Nick Harvey:** The following table provides details of the civilian contractors at RAF Valley.

| *Civilian contractor* | *Capacity* |
|---|---|
| Babcock Defence services) | Station Multi Activity Contract (MAC) (support<br>Support to Hawk and Advanced Jet Trainer.<br>Sub-contractor work. |
| OCS | Babcock Defence sub-contractor (MAC) |
| BAE Systems | Support to Hawk and Advanced Jet Trainer.<br>Hawk TMkl synthetic training simulator. |
| Rolls Royce | Engines for TMkl Hawk. |
| ASCENT | Flying Training Services provider. |
| Augusta Westland | Support to SeaKing. |
| FB Heliservices | Maintenance and operational support to Search and Rescue Training Unit. |
| Safeskys | Bird Control Services.<br>Hawk Ground Training School contract. |
| Christy Aerospace and Technology Ltd | Training support to Hawk ground school. |
| Ocean | Flight planning software and support. |
| ATLAS | IT management and maintenance. |
| ESS Support Services | Catering and Hotel services. |
| Carillion | Defence estates regional prime contractor. |
| Kelda Water | Project Aquatrine. |
| THALES | SeaKing synthetic training simulator. |
| Compass | Leisure services. |

## Strategic Defence and Security Review

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department has taken to meet its commitment in the strategic defence and security review to give energy a higher priority in UK foreign policy. [43970]

**Mr Lidington:** I have been asked to reply.

In line with the strategic defence and security review (SDSR) and the Whitehall International Energy Strategy, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC), and other Government Departments (including the Ministry of Defence (MOD)) have raised the level of engagement with those countries identified as priorities for UK energy security. For example, FCO, DECC, and MOD energy Ministers have all visited Norway since the SDSR; a State visit by the Emir of Qatar took place in October 2010; the Deputy Prime Minister visited Kazakhstan in December 2010. More regular ministerial contact has been established with UK-based International Oil Companies to support UK commercial energy interests. We are working through the EU, G20 and other international fora to increase price stability and mitigate risks to supply. A new International Energy Forum charter was agreed in February 2011 to enhance producer-consumer dialogue.

The cross-Whitehall International Energy Committee, chaired jointly by FCO and DECC, ensures a joined-up governmental approach to prioritising energy in UK foreign policy.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding he has allocated to implementing the commitment in the Strategic Defence and Security Review to significantly enhance special forces capability in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [45915]

**Nick Harvey:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 24 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 317W. The Strategic Defence and Security Review highlighted the contribution of our special forces to a wide range of intervention operations and the vital support they provide to stabilisation operations and other commitments. We are investing in them more to increase their effectiveness even further. However, no further details will be provided as it is the long-standing policy of the Ministry of Defence not to comment on matters concerning United Kingdom special forces to protect operational capability.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much he expects his Department to save as a result of the commitment in the Strategic Defence and Security Review to reductions in the civilian workforce and non-front line service personnel in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [45918]

**Mr Robathan:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Houghton and Sunderland South (Bridget Phillipson) on 2 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 453W. The Ministry of Defence announced significant reductions to both civilian and military personnel as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. Final savings figures on redundancies will depend on detailed implementation of these reductions, which will include early release and natural wastage, as well as redundancies. Estimates are subject to change and the MOD is therefore not prepared to release more detailed figures at this time.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Anti-Terrorism Control Orders: Prosecutions

**Dr Huppert:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions have been brought against individuals subject to control orders to date; and for which offences. [43276]

**Nick Herbert** *[holding answer 4 March 2011]*: The Secretary of State reports to Parliament on the exercise of her powers under the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005—and on criminal proceedings for breaches of control orders—on a quarterly basis, and additionally on an ad hoc basis if required. At 10 December 2010, the end of the period covered by the most recent such report (16 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 124-25WS), 48 individuals had ever been subject to a control order. Of these, 10 have been charged with breaching their control order, two have been convicted; one was acquitted; one absconded before trial; one foreign national left the UK voluntarily and charges remain on file; three cases were discontinued as the Crown Prosecution Service concluded it was not in the public interest to prosecute; and two are currently awaiting trial.

All of the individuals currently subject to a control order, and most of those who have ever been subject to a control order, are also subject to a court-imposed anonymity order. This prevents the publication of information that would identify, or would tend to identify, an individual as being subject to a control order. Since clarifying any offences (other than breaching their control order) for which these individuals have been prosecuted—together with information already in the public domain about individuals who have been charged with offences, including in particular terrorism offences—would tend to breach the court imposed anonymity order, it is not possible to provide this information.

### Asylum

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress her Department has made in reducing the time taken to determine asylum applications. [45424]

**Damian Green:** The average percentage of asylum claims that have received an initial decision within 30 days is 61% for cohorts since May 2010, compared with 46% for cohorts in the 12 months before May 2010. The average percentage of asylum cases concluded (granted or removed) within six months was 53% for cohorts since May 2010, compared with 48% for cohorts in the 12 months prior to May 2010.

Both of these indicators form part of a new framework that measures our progress towards an asylum system with swifter case conclusions and no backlogs, delivered at significantly lower cost to the taxpayer. Through the Asylum Improvement Project we have been testing a number of new ideas to improve the speed of the system including increased use of specialist case owners, tools to improve the flow of decision making, and a more structured approach to interviews and decisions.

**Ben Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the likely effect of recent events in countries of North Africa and the Middle East on numbers of applications for asylum in the UK. [45952]

**Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency is closely assessing the risks that recent events in north Africa and the middle east may present to asylum intake. So far there is no indication of a significant change in applications for asylum made by nationals of affected countries, or from the surrounding areas. Nonetheless the UK Border Agency will continue to monitor the situation to ensure that it is well placed to manage any emerging risks and respond effectively should the situation change.

### Police Associations

**Vernon Coaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* Ministers in her Department have had with representatives of the (i) Black Police Association, (ii) National Association of Muslim Police, (iii) Jewish Police Association and (iv) British Association of Women Police since May 2010. [44159]

**Nick Herbert:** I met the National Association of Muslim Police on 12 January 2011. I also provided a video address for the National Black Police Association conference held on 12 October 2010. The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), and other Ministers in the Home Office have not met any of these bodies.

### Breathalysers

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of police cars carry roadside breath test equipment; and what estimate has been made of the *(a)* cost and *(b)* time spent transporting testing equipment for use by officers who do not have such equipment available to them in the latest period for which figures are available. [44937]

**James Brokenshire:** The information requested is not held centrally.

### British Overseas Citizenship

**Laura Sandys:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will consider the merits of a selective regularisation scheme for British overseas citizens who have no access to *(a)* settlement and *(b)* citizenship under the immigration rules. [45859]

**Damian Green:** British Overseas citizens have access to be able to apply for settlement. Those who meet the criteria or who can provide evidence of compelling and compassionate circumstances and/or human rights considerations are able to qualify for a grant of leave outside of the rules.

There are provisions under which British Overseas citizens can apply to become British citizens if certain criteria are met. Information about those provisions is published on the UK Border Agency website.

As such, we are not considering a selective regularisation scheme for British Overseas citizens who have not been granted settlement, or who cannot qualify for citizenship under the immigration rules.

**Laura Sandys:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of British overseas citizens who have no avenue to full British citizenship or settlement under the immigration rules; and how many such British overseas citizens come from each country of origin. [45860]

**Damian Green:** We are unable to estimate how many British overseas citizens (BOCs) fit into this category. To determine which BOCs do not have a route to settlement or citizenship would require looking at individual cases and would therefore be at disproportionate cost.

### Crime: Maps

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has made an estimate of the number of inaccurately located crimes on the crime mapping website. [45637]

**Nick Herbert:** For privacy reasons, and in order to protect the identity of victims, crimes or incidents of antisocial behaviour shown on the police.uk website are mapped to an anonymous point on, or near, the street where they occurred, and not normally on streets with fewer than 12 postal addresses.

Police forces are responsible for the accuracy of the data and, where appropriate, will continue to review and update the information provided, taking public feedback into consideration.

### Crime: Young People

**Nick de Bois:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to ensure that regional variations of youth victimisation are included in future statistical reports published by her Department on the victimisation of children aged 10 to 15 years. [45953]

**James Brokenshire:** The presentation of data in National Statistics reports published by my Department is a matter for the Home Office chief statistician to decide. I will ask him to write to my hon. Friend and will arrange for a copy of his letter to be placed in the House Library.

### Departmental Procurement

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which procurement projects engaged upon by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each non-departmental public body and agency for which she is responsible had a designated senior responsible owner in the latest period for which figures are available; and on what date each officer was appointed in each such case. [45568]

**Damian Green:** The Home Office requires that all programmes and projects are owned by a senior responsible owner. Details of their appointment dates are not held centrally.

### Departmental Regulation

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what regulations her Department repealed between 3 February and 28 February 2011. [45981]

**Damian Green:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

The following statutory instruments in the form of regulations were revoked by the Department between 3 February and 28 February 2011. None of the revocations is yet in force.

| *(1) Regulations revoked* | *(2) References* | *(3) Extent of revocation* | *(4) Revoking instrument* |
|---|---|---|---|
| The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) (England, Wales and Scotland) Regulations 2010 | S.I. 2010/1144 | Regulation 3(a) | S.I. 2011/448 |
| The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) (England, Wales and Scotland) Regulations 2009 | S.I. 2009/3136 | Regulation 3 | S.I. 2011/448 |
| The Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006 | S.I. 2006/1003 | Paragraph 7 of Schedule 5 | S.I. 2011/544 |
| The Accession (Immigration and Worker Authorisation) Regulations 2006 | S.I. 2006/3317 | Paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 | S.I. 2011/544 |
| The Accession (Immigration and Worker Authorisation) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 | S.I. 2007/475 | Regulation 3 | S.I. 2011/544 |
| The Accession (Immigration and Worker Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 | S.I. 2007/928 | The whole Regulations | S.I. 2011/544 |

| *(1) Regulations revoked* | *(2) References* | *(3) Extent of revocation* | *(4) Revoking instrument* |
|---|---|---|---|
| The Accession (Worker Authorisation and Worker Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 | S.I. 2007/3012 | Regulation 3 | S.I. 2011/544 |
| The Accession (Immigration and Worker Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2009 | S.I. 2009/892 | The whole Regulations | S.I. 2011/544 |
| The Accession (Worker Authorisation and Worker Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2009 | S.I. 2009/2426 | Regulation 3 | S.I. 2011/544 |

## Detention Centres: Children

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children were detained in immigration removal centres in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [44815]

**Damian Green:** The requested information is not available. Published figures show that 1,120 children entered detention solely under immigration Act powers in 2009 and 405 in 2010; however, some of these children may have entered detention more than once.

The Home Office publishes statistics on children entering detention, solely under immigration Act powers on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

On 16 December 2010, the Government announced the immediate closure of the family unit to children at the Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre. A new non-detained family returns process was also announced to deliver the coalition commitment to end the detention of children for immigration purposes.

A fresh approach to managing family returns is being developed which places greater emphasis on engagement with families and aims to encourage families to leave without the need for enforcement action if they are found to have no legal right to be in the UK.

Most elements of this new process went live across the UK on 1 March, including the setting up of a new independent Family Returns Panel to advise the UK Border Agency on how to ensure the return of those families who do not take up the opportunities to leave under their own steam. A range of options has been developed to provide sufficient flexibility for a tailored approach to each family.

## Dyfed-Powys Police: Helicopters

**Glyn Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of Dyfed-Powys Police Authority's Air Support Service. [45963]

**Nick Herbert:** The Government recognise the challenges that are faced by Dyfed-Powys-police in covering a large geographical area with a single helicopter but also recognises the need to provide value for money for the taxpayer. The introduction of a National Police Air Service (NPAS) from 1 April 2012 will provide a mixed fleet of rotary and fixed-wing aircraft that will operate across borders. The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) believes that the replacement of the Dyfed-Powys helicopter with a fixed-wing aircraft is a more effective solution giving eight hours more coverage and greater resilience across the whole of Wales.

The ACPO/National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) project team continue to work closely with Dyfed-Powys police to find a solution within NPAS that meet the needs of the force.

## Homicide

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the position of the UK in international comparator tables on rates of homicide. [44600]

**James Brokenshire:** A number of international organisations, including Eurostat, have attempted to collate international homicide statistics. It is important to note that there are issues surrounding the comparability of international homicide data. There are different definitions of homicide between countries, although definitions vary less than for some other types of crimes. Furthermore, there are differing points in criminal justice systems at which homicides are recorded, i.e. when the offence is discovered or following further investigation.

The most recent Eurostat figures compare homicide rates averaged over the years 2006 to 2008. These are published in 'Crime and Criminal Justice' by Cynthia Tavares and Geoffrey Thomas and are available via the following link:

http://www.eds-destatis.de/en/downloads/sif/sf_10_058.pdf

The rates for the 15 countries that were members of the European Union prior to the accession of 10 candidate countries on 1 May 2004 are shown in Table A, per million population. The Eurostat published rate for England and Wales is 13.5, for Scotland is 21.4 and for Northern Ireland is 15.2. Eurostat calculated the England and Wales rate using the recorded crime returns rather than the Homicide Index. If the Homicide Index had been used, the figure would be slightly lower.

Among the countries that joined the EU on or after May 2004, rates for eastern European countries tend to be higher, rising to 87.6 in Lithuania and 66.0 in Estonia, though the rate for Poland is 12.9, which is lower than that for England and Wales.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation commented on homicide rates in the USA in their publication 'Crime in the United States, 2008'. They stated that, although the rate of murder and non-negligent manslaughter in the USA has fallen substantially in recent years, to 56 per million population in 2008, it is still well above those experienced in western Europe.

Another key source for international homicide data is the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). UNODC statistics currently cover over 198 countries or territories. The data are drawn from various different datasets. The UK are included in the table of homicide rates based on criminal justice sources and are ranked below the median for all countries which provided these data. However, for the reasons stated earlier, caution should be taken when making such comparisons. The UNODC data are available at the following link:

http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/homicide.html

*Table A Homicide rate per million population for 15 European Union countries (ranked in order high to low)*

| *Country* | *Rate* |
|---|---|
| Finland | 23.4 |
| UK: Scotland | 21.4 |
| Ireland | 20.0 |
| Belgium | 19.7 |
| Luxembourg | 16.1 |
| UK: Northern Ireland | 15.2 |
| Portugal | 14.6 |
| France | 13.7 |
| UK: England and Wales[1] | 13.5 |
| Denmark | 12.2 |
| Italy | 11.3 |
| Sweden | 10.6 |
| Greece | 10.4 |
| Netherlands | 10.2 |
| Spain | 10.2 |
| Germany | 8.4 |
| Austria | 6.1 |

[1] Eurostat calculated this figure using the recorded crime returns, not the Homicide Index. If the Homicide Index had been used, the figure would be slightly lower.

### Immigration Controls

**Nicola Blackwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to publish new guidelines for immigration judges; and if she will make a statement. [46035]

**Damian Green:** Immigration judges are independent judicial office holders and the UK Border Agency does not issue guidance to them.

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter sent by the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 14 January 2011 with regard to Mr Y Ashraf. [44172]

**Damian Green** *[holding answer 4 March 2011]:* I refer the right hon. Member to the reply given by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), on 28 February 2011.

### Northumbria Police: Manpower

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will assess the potential effects of a reduction in the number of police officers employed by Northumbria police on the level of crime in the Northumbria police force area. [46538]

**Nick Herbert:** There is no simple link between levels of crime and the number of police officers. This view is supported by a report from the Select Committee on Home Affairs. The Home Office will continue to publish data on police officer numbers and crime levels in each police force.

### Northumbria Police: Stun Guns

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions a stun gun was *(a)* deployed and *(b)* fired by officers of Northumbria police in each of the last three years. [46539]

**Nick Herbert:** The last published figures show that Taser was used by Northumbria police 884 times between April 2004 and 30 September 2009. It was discharged 152 times over the same period.

Previously published figures on the use of Taser can be found on the archived Home Office website at:

http://tna.europarchive.org/20100419081706/http://www.police.homeoffice.gov.uk/operational-policing/firearms/taser/index.html

### Official Cars: Prime Minister

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse was of the *(a)* purchase, *(b)* adaptation, *(c)* delivery and *(d)* other associated costs of the Jaguar XJ Sentinel vehicle for the use of the Prime Minister. [44474]

**Nick Herbert** *[holding answer 7 March 2011]:* It is our policy not to provide detailed information on the cost of security to protected individuals. To do so would compromise the integrity of the security arrangements of the individuals concerned.

### Police: Charging Arrangements

**Vernon Coaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress she has made in introducing new charging arrangements for police forces; and if she will make a statement. [45125]

**Nick Herbert:** We are returning charging decisions to the police for a range of offences, saving valuable police time. We are discussing with the Crown Prosecution Service and Association of Chief Police Officers the possibility of returning additional offences to the police through a second phase of charging transfers.

### Police: Bureaucracy

**Bob Stewart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to reduce the level of paperwork required of police officers dealing with suspected domestic violence incidents. [45402]

**Nick Herbert:** The Government are committed to reducing unnecessary bureaucracy in policing while ensuring that the right safeguards are in place for victims of domestic violence. This is an area that requires effective risk-management and therefore needs careful consideration of the potential impact any changes may have on vulnerable victims of domestic violence.

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the likely effect on the administrative burden on police forces of changes to the Code of Practice A under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. [45422]

**Nick Herbert:** The recent changes made to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 Codes of Practice A, B and D are focused on reducing bureaucracy in police forces and allowing them to make decisions at a local level that directly affect their communities. The administrative savings made by the new procedures will significantly outweigh any transitional burden on forces.

### Police: Yorkshire and the Humber

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers were assigned to duties in (i) South Yorkshire and (ii) Doncaster on (A) 1 May 1997, (B) 1 May 2009, (C) 1 May 2010 and (D) the most recent date for which figures are available. [44530]

**Nick Herbert:** The available data are provided in the table, which shows the number of police officers and police community support officers in post in South Yorkshire and Doncaster as at 31 March 1997, 2009, 2010 and as at 30 September 2010. Figures are not collected as at 1 May, the closest figures are as at 31 March.

*Police officer and police community support officer strength for South Yorkshire and Doncaster*[1,2]

| | *Police officers* | | *Police community support officers* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *South Yorkshire* | *Doncaster* | *South Yorkshire* | *Doncaster* |
| 1996-97 | 3,159 | [3]n/a | [4]n/a | [4]n/a |
| 2008-09 | 3,053 | 502 | 328 | 74 |
| 2009-10 | 2,953 | 478 | 328 | 74 |
| 30 September 2010 | 2,977 | [5]n/a | 314 | [5]n/a |

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

[2] Figures for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 30 September 2010 include staff on career breaks, maternity/paternity leave (not comparable with figures prior to 2003); however the figure for 1996-97 excludes staff on career breaks, maternity/paternity leave (is comparable with figures prior to 2003).

[3] Figures for police officers broken down by Basic Command Unit were not collected before 2003.

[4] Police community support officers did not exist prior to 2002.

[5] Police service strength is not broken down by Basic Command Unit in 30 September 2010 as these data are only collected for 31 March.

### Third Sector

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* she and *(b)* Ministers in her Department are participating in volunteering activities as part of her Department's involvement in the Big Society initiative. [42663]

**Damian Green:** Home Office Ministers are actively involved with charities on a private basis as detailed in the list of Ministers' interests recently published by the Cabinet Office, as well as our involvement in other local voluntary activities in our constituencies.

### Vetting

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of individuals barred under the Vetting and Barring scheme also have a criminal record for sex offences. [44964]

**Lynne Featherstone:** A total of 15,559 individuals have been barred through the Independent Safeguarding Authority's (ISA) autobar and discretionary powers between 20 January 2009 and 28 February 2011; of these 69.1% (10,753 people) have a criminal record for one or more sexual offences.

However, criminal records data are not readily available for all discretionary bars. In addition, this figure excludes any barring decisions made on those people who were included on the previous barred lists and whom the ISA has "determined" under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (Transitory Provisions) Order 2009 should be placed on the ISA barred lists.

### Visas: Students

**Graeme Morrice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what impact assessment she has carried out to determine the effects on the *(a)* education sector and *(b)* economy of her proposals to cap non-EU Students in (i) England, (ii) Scotland, (iii) Wales and (iv) Northern Ireland. [45634]

**Damian Green:** A consultation on the student immigration system closed on 31 January 2011. The consultation sought the views of all respondents on the effect of the proposals. The results of the consultation and an impact assessment will be published in due course.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Official Residences

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 740W, on Chequers: official visits, how many days he has spent at *(a)* Downing street and *(b)* Chequers since his appointment. [46194]

**The Prime Minister:** I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave on 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 740W.

### Anti-Semitism

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Prime Minister what recent meetings he has had with the Board of Deputies of British Jews on levels of anti-Semitism; and if he will make a statement. [45485]

**The Prime Minister:** The Government are concerned with any anti-Semitic act and it presses for prosecutions.

### Official Residences

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Prime Minister (1) what the roles and responsibilities are of each member of civilian staff employed at Chequers; [45831]

(2) how much has been spent on refurbishment at Chequers since his appointment. [45832]

**The Prime Minister:** This information is not a matter for the Government. Chequers is administered by independent trustees who receive an annual grant from the Cabinet Office towards its maintenance and to cover civilian staff employed at Chequers in accordance with the Chequers Acts.

The grant for the financial year 2010-11 was agreed under the previous Administration. Information will be included in the annual Cabinet Office Report and Accounts, which will be published before the summer recess.

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Prime Minister what the cost to the public purse has been of the purchase of *(a)* red wine, *(b)* white wine, *(c)* champagne and *(d)* fortified wine for use at Chequers since his appointment; on how many occasions each has been served; and if he will make a statement. [45833]

**The Prime Minister:** Details of the cost of entertainment and hospitality in Downing street and Chequers are published annually.

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the likely cost to the public purse of the annual grant from the Cabinet Office for the operation of Chequers for each category of cost in 2011-12. [46369]

**The Prime Minister:** Chequers is administered by independent trustees who receive an annual grant from the Cabinet Office towards its maintenance and to cover civilian staff employed at Chequers in accordance with the Chequers Acts.

Information about the grant for 2011-12 will be included in the annual Cabinet Office report and accounts which will be published at the end of the financial year.

### Community Security Trust Annual Dinner

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will place in the Library a copy of his speech to the Community Security Trust Annual Dinner; which Members of the Government also attended the dinner; and if he will make a statement. [45507]

**The Prime Minister:** A copy of the speech has been placed in the Libraries of the House. For information of which Members of the Government also attended the dinner I refer my hon. Friend to the quarterly list of Ministers' hospitality which can be found on the Number 10 website:

http://transparency.number10.gov.uk/who.php

### Departmental Official Visits

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Prime Minister (1) on what date his Office finalised the list of individuals to accompany him on his recent visit to the middle east; [45374]

(2) on what date his recent visit to the middle east was first proposed; [45376]

(3) what the name is of each person not employed by a Government Department who accompanied him on his recent visit to the middle east. [45412]

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Prime Minister (1) what meetings he had during his recent visit to the Gulf region to discuss defence equipment sales; [45624]

(2) which representatives from defence industries accompanied him on his recent visit to the Gulf region; [45625]

(3) which *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* officials accompanied him on his recent visit to the Gulf region; [45626]

(4) what consideration he gave to postponing his recent visit to the Gulf region in light of unrest in Egypt and Libya. [45627]

**The Prime Minister:** As set out in the Ministerial Code, details of all my overseas travel is published at least quarterly. This was a long-standing visit to the middle east with the aims of encouraging political reform, boosting trade and strengthening security ties. The visit comprised a varied programme to meet these three aims including meeting leaders and representatives of the business community. I have placed in the Libraries of both Houses a list of the business delegation who accompanied me.

### E-petition System

**Bob Stewart:** To ask the Prime Minister what progress he has made on the implementation of the new e-petition system on the 10 Downing street website. [45509]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the notice on the No. 10 website about e-petitions:

http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/

### Libya

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Prime Minister (1) when he was informed of the intention to send a diplomatic mission to eastern Libya; [45935]

(2) on what date he received the submission outlining the intention of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to send a diplomatic mission to eastern Libya. [46371]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 900.

### Save the Children Fund

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Prime Minister what meetings he has had with representatives of Save the Children since May 2010. [45127]

**The Prime Minister:** I met campaigners for Save the Children in August 2010 in my constituency. My Office has also had several meetings with Save the Children since May 2010.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Alternative Vote: Referendums

**Sir Alan Beith:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether electors registered for a permanent postal vote are automatically to be issued with postal ballot papers for the referendum on the use of the alternative vote for elections to the House of Commons. [46310]

**Mr Harper:** Any elector who has a postal vote at UK parliamentary elections, whether permanent or for a fixed period covering the referendum, will automatically be issued with a postal vote for the referendum. In addition, a person who is entitled to vote by post in one or more of the polls combined with the referendum on 5 May (including the elections to the devolved legislatures) will automatically be issued with a postal vote for the referendum if they are entitled to vote in it. Individuals will also be able to specifically apply for a postal vote for the referendum.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what proportion of written questions tabled to him for answer on a named day between 27 May 2010 and 9 March 2011 did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer. [46565]

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Between 27 May 2010 and 9 March 2011, 86 questions for answer on a named day were tabled to the Deputy Prime Minister, 59 of which received a substantive answer on the specified date.

### Prisoners: Sentencing

**Mr Hollobone:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister for what reason he has determined that a four year sentence limit is appropriate for the enfranchisement of prisoners. [34015]

**Mr Harper:** As I indicated in my written ministerial statement on 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 150-151WS:

> "Four years has in the past been regarded as the distinction between short and long-term prisoners, and the Government consider that permitting prisoners sentenced to less than four years' imprisonment to vote is sufficient to comply with the judgment."

The four year distinction historically has its statutory basis in the Criminal Justice Act 1991, and is still recognised in law as a dividing line in Scotland. More generally, the Government are considering the next steps on prisoner voting rights in view of the strength of feeling on this issue in the UK, as demonstrated by the recent debates in Parliament. The Government have sought to refer the Greens and MT judgment against the UK to the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights. If the Grand Chamber agrees to the referral they will look again at the case and issue their own judgment.

### Prisoners: Voting Rights

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) whether he plans to allow ballot boxes to be taken into prisons in order to enable franchised prisoners to vote in elections; [40238]

(2) whether his proposals for the enfranchisement of certain prisoners requires primary legislation; [40192]

(3) what provision for voting will be made for prisoners detained in mental health establishments; [39900]

(4) whether prisoners without a residential address or a local area with which they have a connection will be able to register the prison as their eligible address for the purpose of voting; [40137]

(5) what his policy is on extending the franchise to prisoners found guilty of electoral fraud; [39897]

(6) whether primary legislation to enfranchise prisoners will be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny; [40136]

(7) what steps the Government is taking to ensure that people convicted of serious offences but who are serving a short sentence are not enfranchised; [40138]

(8) whether prisoners denied the right to vote by a sentencing judge will have a right to appeal; [40135]

(9) whether candidates for elections in which prisoners are to have the right to vote will be permitted to canvass prisoners in prisons; [40239]

(10) what his policy is on the enfranchisement of prisoners when they become eligible for parole; [41335]

(11) when he plans to publish legislative proposals in respect of enfranchisement of certain prisoners. [40193]

**Mr Harper:** The Government are considering the next steps on prisoner voting rights in view of the strength of feeling on this issue in the UK, as demonstrated by the recent debates in Parliament. The Government have sought to refer the Greens and MT judgment against the UK to the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights. If the Grand Chamber agrees to the referral they will look again at the case and issue their own judgment.

The Government will set out their intended approach in due course.

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many prisoners in Scotland he estimates will receive the right to vote in parliamentary elections as a consequence of his plans to extend the franchise to those serving custodial sentences of up to four years. [33361]

**Mr Harper:** The Government are considering the next steps on prisoner voting rights in view of the strength of feeling on this issue in the UK, as demonstrated by the recent debates in Parliament. The Government have sought to refer the Greens and MT judgment against the UK to the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights. If the Court agrees to the referral they will look again at the case and issue their own judgment.

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many cases in relation to UK prisoner voting are pending before the European Court of Human Rights. [39899]

**Mr Harper:** I understand that as at the beginning of February 2011 the European Court of Human Rights has received approximately 3,500 claims from UK prisoners unable to vote in elections. It has suspended consideration of those claims pending the Government's implementation of the Hirst and Greens and MT judgments.

More generally, the Government are considering the next steps on prisoner voting rights in view of the strength of feeling on this issue in the UK, as demonstrated by the recent debates in Parliament. The Government have sought to refer the Greens and MT judgment against the UK to the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights. If the Grand Chamber agrees to the referral they will look again at the case and issue their own judgment.

**Mr Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 20 December 2010, *Official Report,* columns 150-52WS, on voting entitlement (1) what the evidential basis was for the distinction made between serious and other offences for the purposes of sentencing in respect of proposals to allow convicted prisoners the right to vote; and if he will make a statement; [33192]

(2) what assessment he made of the merits of setting a sentence guideline lower than four years in respect of proposals to allow convicted prisoners to vote; and if he will make a statement. [33193]

**Mr Harper:** As I indicated in my written ministerial statement on 20 December 2010, *Official Report,* columns 150-52WS,

> "Four years has in the past been regarded as the distinction between short and long-term prisoners, and the Government consider that permitting prisoners sentenced to less than four years' imprisonment to vote is sufficient to comply with the judgment."

The four-year distinction historically has its statutory basis in the Criminal Justice Act 1991, and is still recognised in law as a dividing line in Scotland. More generally, the Government are considering the next steps on prisoner voting rights in view of the strength of feeling on this issue in the UK, as demonstrated by the recent debates in Parliament. The Government have sought to refer the Greens and MT judgment against the UK to the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights. If the Grand Chamber agrees to the referral, they will look again at the case and issue their own judgment.

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many prisoners in *(a)* the North West and *(b)* Warrington he expects to receive the right to vote in Parliamentary elections as a result of his plans to extend the franchise to those serving terms of up to four years. [34040]

**Mr Harper:** The Government are considering the next steps on prisoner voting rights in view of the strength of feeling on this issue in the UK, as demonstrated by the recent debates in Parliament. The Government have sought to refer the Greens and MT judgment against the UK to the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights. If the Court agrees to the referral they will look again at the case and issue their own judgment.

**Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2010, *Official Report,* column 497W, on prisoners: voting rights, what representations he has received from Scottish Ministers on the implementation of prisoners' voting rights; and if he will publish each item of correspondence between him and Scottish Ministers on the issue. [34495]

**Mr Harper** *[holding answer 18 January 2011]:* Neither I nor the Deputy Prime Minister have received any representations from Scottish Ministers in relation to prisoners voting rights.

**David T. C. Davies:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what legal advice he has received on the compatibility with judgements of the European Court of Human Rights on the introduction of a prohibition on the enfranchisement of prisoners sentenced to terms of over one year. [38807]

**Mr Harper:** The Government do not disclose their legal advice. Disclosure of legal advice has a high potential to prejudice the Government's ability to defend their legal interests—both directly, by unfairly exposing their legal position to challenge, and indirectly by diminishing the reliance it can place on the advice having been fully considered and presented without fear or favour. Neither of these is in the public interest.

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will publish the legal advice which informed the Government's decision on which prisoners to enfranchise. [40185]

**Mr Harper** *[holding answer 11 February 2011]:* The Government do not disclose their legal advice. Disclosure of legal advice has a high potential to prejudice the Government's ability to defend its legal interests—both directly, by unfairly exposing their legal position to challenge, and indirectly by diminishing the reliance they can place on the advice having been fully considered and presented without fear or favour. Neither of these is in the public interest.

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what *(a)* recent discussions he has had and *(b)* legal advice he has received on the extension of the franchise to prisoners. [40256]

**Mr Harper** *[holding answer 11 February 2011]:* The Government do not disclose their legal advice. Disclosure of legal advice has a high potential to prejudice the Government's ability to defend its legal interests—both directly, by unfairly exposing its legal position to challenge, and indirectly by diminishing the reliance it can place on the advice having been fully considered and presented without fear or favour. Neither of these is in the public interest.

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether any cases in relation to prisoners' voting rights are pending before domestic courts. [41337]

**Mr Harper** *[holding answer 16 February 2011]:* Around 585 prisoners made a claim in the domestic courts for compensation and/or a declaration that their rights were infringed for the fact that they were denied the right to vote. The High Court struck out those cases on the basis that damages cannot be awarded in the domestic courts under the Human Rights Act for a failure to introduce compatible legislation. The judgment was published on 18 February.

### Public Reading: Bills

**Natascha Engel:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what discussions he has had with the Procedure Committee on *(a)* the introduction of a public reading stage for Bills and *(b)* a public reading day within a Bills committee stage; [41660]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Liaison Committee on *(a)* the introduction of a public reading stage for Bills and *(b)* a public reading day within a Bills committee stage; [41661]

(3) what discussions he has had with the Backbench Business Committee on *(a)* the introduction of a public reading stage for Bills and *(b)* a public reading day within a Bills committee stage; [41662]

(4) what discussions he has had with the committee of the House of Lords on *(a)* the introduction of a public reading stage for Bills and *(b)* a public reading day within a Bills committee stage. [41663]

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** The Leader of the House of Commons has regular discussions, including with those representing the relevant committees. The Leader of the House of Commons will have further discussions with colleagues within Government and both Houses on the development of the public reading stage of Bills following the pilot of the public reading stage of the Protection of Freedoms Bill.

**Natascha Engel:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much has been spent on *(a)* introducing the public reading stage for Bills and *(b)* introducing a public reading day within a Bills committee stage to date. [41665]

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** No separately identifiable costs for the pilot have yet been established, although they are likely to be restricted to the establishment of the dedicated website. The Leader of the House of Commons will consider costs as part of his evaluation of the pilot.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Renewable Energy

**Christopher Pincher:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he plans to take together with the World Bank to support the development of renewable energy projects in the developing world. [45610]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** World Bank Group lending to renewable energy projects (excluding large hydropower) has been steadily increasing, and reached $1.4 billion in 2009 and $1.5 billion in 2010. However, I believe all the multilateral development banks, including the World Bank, should be doing even more to support a shift to climate-smart investment and lending. I will be raising this when I visit the bank in April.

The UK is a strong supporter of the Climate Investment Funds (CIFs) which work through the World Bank and other development banks to finance renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable transport in developing countries as well as forestry and adaptation to climate change. Current commitments under the Clean Technology Fund (CTF), the largest of the CIFs, amount to $3.1 billion for over 12 gigawatts of new renewable energy capacity, sufficient to provide power to almost 16 million households. We also provide core funding to the World Bank's Energy Sector Management Assistance Program, which helps countries develop roadmaps for renewable energy deployment and better understand the costs and benefits of renewables when compared to fossil fuels.

### Departmental Procurement

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many procurement projects with a monetary value greater than *(a)* £10 million, *(b)* £50 million and *(c)* £100 million (i) his Department and (ii) each non-departmental public body for which he is responsible was engaged upon in the latest period for which figures are available. [45569]

**Mr Duncan:** In 2009-10 the Department for International Development (DFID) awarded a total of 16 contracts for procurement projects with a value greater than £10 million. Only one of these contracts had a value greater than £50 million and none had a value greater than £100 million.

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which procurement projects engaged upon by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental public body for which he is responsible had a designated senior responsible owner in the latest period for which figures are available; and on what date each officer was appointed in each such case. [45570]

**Mr Duncan:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has a designated senior responsible owner (SRO) in place for all programmes to ensure they meet objectives and deliver the projected benefits.

Heads of DFID country offices and business units assume responsibility for the role of SRO for programmes in their country or business area on taking up their position. To provide specific dates of all changes in SRO on this basis would incur disproportionate cost.

### Pakistan: Floods

**Pauline Latham:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the outcome of his Department's funding for humanitarian work in Pakistan following the floods in that country. [46010]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** As of 31 January 2011, the Department for International Development's (DFID's) funding for the response to the Pakistan floods has delivered the following results:

| *Sector* | *Indicator* | *Results achieved (people)* |
|---|---|---|
| Water | People provided with safe drinking water | 2,145,000 |
| Sanitation | People provided with access to latrines and/or washing areas | 32.3,000 |
| Hygiene | People receiving kits and participating in awareness sessions | 1,739,000 |
| Health | People able to access basic health care | 603,000 |
| Nutrition | Women and children receiving supplementary or therapeutic feeding for malnutrition | 754,000 |
| Food | People receiving food for one month | 521,000 |
| Non-food items | People receiving emergency packages of goods | 1,252,000 |
| Shelter | People provided with emergency shelter and support to rebuild their homes | 1,133,000 |
| Agriculture | People provided with seeds and fertilisers | 270,000 |
| Agriculture | People provided with fodder for their livestock | 276,000 |

## United Nations Environment Programme

**Stephen McPartland:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding he plans to provide to the United Nations Environment Programme in 2011-12. [45435]

**Mr Duncan:** The Department for International Development (DFID) intends to provide £1.5 million in core funding to the United Nations Environment Programme in 2011/12. This is additional to the UK's voluntary contribution to the United Nations Environment Programme handled by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), which has been £4.2 million per annum.

## United Nations: Expenditure

**Stephen McPartland:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department allocated to each UN agency and programme in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011. [45436]

**Mr Duncan:** It is not yet possible to provide a full estimate of funding for UN organisations in 2010/11. In 2009/10, the latest year for which information is available, the Department for International Development (DFID) provided the following core and non-core funding to UN organisations:

*£ million*

| *UN Organisation* | *2009/10* *Core* | *Non core* |
|---|---|---|
| Convention to Combat Desertification | 0.9 | — |
| Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean | — | 0.4 |
| Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) | 10.0 | 8.2 |
| International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) | — | 1.9 |
| International Labour Organisation (ILO) | 4.1 | 1.4 |
| International Organisation for Migration (IOM) | 0.9 | 6.5 |
| Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) | 11.0 | 1.2 |
| United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) | 21.0 | 113.9 |
| United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) | — | 0.1 |
| United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) | 3.0 | 0.8 |
| United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) | 57.8 | 215.1 |
| United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) | 10.0 | 1.0 |
| United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) | 1.5 | 10.7 |
| United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN OHCHR) | 2.5 | — |
| United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN HABITAT) | 2.0 | 2.1 |
| United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) | 4.9 | — |
| United Nations Mine Action Service | — | 1.1 |
| United Nations Office of Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) | 7.0 | 74.9 |
| United Nations Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) | 19.0 | 14.6 |
| United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) | — | 0.4 |
| United Nations Peacebuilding Fund | — | 0.1 |
| United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) | 22.1 | 24.4 |
| United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) | 24.9 | 2.0 |
| United Nations Research Institute for Social Development | — | 0.7 |
| World Food Programme (WFP) | — | 74.8 |
| World Health Organisation (WHO) | 14.6 | 65.5 |

The Multilateral Aid Review is complete, but DFID has not yet taken funding decisions for 2011/12 for all UN organisations. DFID has informed UN organisations of the following funding intentions:

| *UN Organisation* | *2011/12*<br>*Core (£ millions)* |
|---|---|
| International Fund for Agricultural Development (FAD) | 13.7 |
| International Organisation for Migration (IOM) | 0.9 |
| Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) | 10.0 |
| United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) | 44.0 |
| United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) | 55.0 |
| United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) | 16.0 |
| United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) | 1.5 |
| United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN OHCHR) | 2.5 |
| United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)[1] | 7.0 |
| United Nations Peacebuilding Fund | 11.0 |
| United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) | 20.0 |
| United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) | 23.4 |
| World Health Organisation (WHO) | 12.5 |

[1] The UK has announced its attention to withdraw from UNIDO and will pay two assessed contributions to serve out its notice period in 2011/12 and 2012/13.

## EDUCATION

### Academies: Finance

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the total allocation of funding from all public sources was for each academy school in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [35860]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 24 January 2011]:* We only hold information centrally on funding provided to academies by the Department for Education. The table setting out the details for the two financial years concerned has been placed in the House Libraries. In some cases, significantly more grant was paid in 2009-10 than is allocated for 2010/11 due to the 2009-10 payment including capital funding.

### Academies: Standards

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment his Department has made of the potential effects of the expansion of the academies programme on the quality of science and mathematics-based teaching. [40642]

**Mr Gibb:** Through their funding agreements, academies are required to teach mathematics and science as part of a broad and balanced curriculum. Results show that standards in academies continue to improve faster than the national average.

### Children: Human Trafficking

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress has been made in locating the 77 children suspected of having been trafficked who have gone missing from children homes in the London Borough of Hillingdon since March 2006. [43035]

**Tim Loughton:** According to the London borough of Hillingdon, around 25% of the children to whom the question refers have been located through immigration processes, or having come to the notice of the police. Inquiries are continuing in relation to the other children. The local authority, the police and the United Kingdom Border Agency meet regularly to review the progress of these inquiries.

### Children's Centres: Finance

**Robert Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will reintroduce the ring-fence for funding provided to local authorities for children's centres. [24849]

**Sarah Teather** *[holding answer 19 November 2010]:* The Department's position is as described in the Secretary of State's written ministerial statement published on 13 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 65WS, that the removal of the ring-fence on funding for Sure Start Children's Centres will give local authorities greater freedom and flexibility to target resources effectively and strategically.

Sure Start Children's Centres are at the heart of the Government's vision for supporting families with young children and intervening early to prevent problems from becoming crises. Through the Early Intervention Grant, the Government has ensured there is enough money to retain a network of Sure Start Children's Centres, accessible to all but identifying and supporting families in greatest need.

But the Government have made it clear that it is for local authorities to determine the most effective use of the grant. Local authorities will have greater flexibility, but they remain under statutory duties under the Childcare Act 2006 to consult before opening, closing or significantly changing children's centres and to secure sufficient children's centres provision to meet local need.

### Connexions Service: Essex

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he has had with Essex county council on the future provision of the Connexions Service in Essex; and if he will make a statement. [39659]

**Mr Gibb:** Ministers have responded to Members of Parliament who have written, on behalf of their constituents, about the provision of Connexions services in Essex.

Local authorities continue to be under a duty to provide such support as they consider necessary to encourage and assist the participation of young people (and young adults with learning difficulties and/or disabilities) in education and training. Decisions as to how such services should be provided are a matter for local authorities, taking account of their statutory responsibilities.

### Connexions: Conditions of Employment

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what transfer of undertakings and protection of employment arrangements he plans to put in place for Connexions staff affected by the establishment of the all-age careers service. [40677]

**Mr Gibb:** The application of the transfer of undertakings (protection of employment) regulations depends on the specific facts in each case. It would, therefore, be neither possible nor appropriate for the Department to offer detailed guidance and the organisations involved should take their own legal advice.

### ContactPoint: Finance

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department allocated to ContactPoint in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [40711]

**Tim Loughton:** The Department spent £67.7 million in 2008-09 on ContactPoint and £68.6 million in 2009-10. We expect total expenditure in 2010-11 to be £22.7 million.

### Departmental Expenditure

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what expenditure *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each public body sponsored by his Department incurred on engaging external audit services in each of the last three years; and to which service providers such payments were made in each year. [43757]

**Tim Loughton:** Expenditure by the Department and its arm's length bodies for external audit services for the last three years is shown in the following table. To include all public bodies sponsored by the Department would incur disproportionate costs.

| | | | £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *2007-08* | *2008-09*[1] | *2009-10*[1] |
| DfE notional audit fees | 300,000 | 318,400 | 320,000 |
| British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (BECTA) | 27,000 | 55,000 | 68,000 |
| Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) | 57,000 | 52,000 | 60,000 |
| Children's Workforce and Development Council (CWDC) | [2]25,000 | 48,000 | 53,000 |
| National College for Leadership of Schools and Children's Services (NCSL) | 44,000 | 55,000 | 55,000 |
| Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC) | 22,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| Partnerships for Schools (PfS) | [3]21,500 | [3]31,700 | 45,500 |
| Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QC DA) | 58,000 | 62,000 | 63,000 |
| Schools Food Trust (SfT) | 20,000 | 26,500 | 30,000 |
| Training Development Agency (TDA) | 40,000 | 51,000 | 75,000 |
| General Teaching Council for England (GTCE) | 26,000 | 31,000 | 31,000 |
| Total | 640,500 | 755,600 | 825,500 |

[1] There was some additional work in 2008-09 and 2009-10 in relation to the audit of restatement of some figures to move from UK accounting principals to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

[2] In 2007-08, the CWDC was a grant-funded private company being turned into a non-departmental public body. The 2007-08 is therefore a prior year comparator.

[3] The audit fees paid by PfS in 2007-08 and 2008-09 were paid to PKF. All other fees were paid to National Audit Office.

### Departmental Manpower

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many staff in his Department were in the civil service redeployment pool on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many of these had been in the redeployment pool for more than six months at that date. [44352]

**Tim Loughton:** On 2 March there were 32 staff in the Department's redeployment pool. Of these eight have been part of our redeployment pool for six months or more (though two are currently absent from work). This figure includes 17 individuals who were TUPE transferred into the Department on 1 March as a result of the closure of the British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (BECTA).

All individuals without permanent posts are fully and actively engaged in work while part of the redeployment pool, on either key projects or short-term business priorities. These individuals are known as 'Priority Movers' and are given first access to vacant posts and other support to find suitable permanent posts.

### Regulation

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what regulations his Department introduced between 30 November 2010 and 8 February 2011. [42085]

**Tim Loughton:** In the period 30 November 2010 to 8 February 2011:

the Education Bill was introduced into Parliament;

two statutory instruments made before 30 November came into force, as follows:

| *Title* | *Made* | *Laid* | *In force* |
|---|---|---|---|
| The Education (School Attendance Targets) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 | 25 November 2010 | 2 December 2010 | 23 December 2010 |
| The Harbour School (Amendment) Order 2010 | 16 November 2010 | 25 November 2010 | 15 December 2010 |

six statutory instruments were made and came into force, as follows:

| *Title* | *Made* | *Laid* | *In force* |
|---|---|---|---|
| The Children and Young Persons Act 2008 (Commencement No. 3, Saving and Transitional Provisions) Order 2010 | 15 December 2010 | n/a | 16 December 2010 |
| The Academies Act 2010 (Commencement and Transitional Provisions) (Amendment) Order 2010 | 22 December 2010 | n/a | 22 December 2010 |
| The Education and Skills Act 2008 (Commencement No. 7 and Transitory Provisions) Order 2010 | 7 December 2010 | n/a | 1 January 2011 |
| The Education (Independent Educational Provision in England) (Unsuitable Persons) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 | 7 December 2010 | 10 December 2010 | 1 January 2011 |
| The Education (Independent Educational Provision in England) (Provision of Information) Regulations 2010 | 7 December 2010 | 10 December 2010 | 1 January 2011 |
| The Education (Local Authority and School Performance Targets) (Revocation and Amendment) (England) Regulations 2010 | 20 December 2010 | 29 December 2010 | 30 January 2011 |

two statutory instruments were made and will come into force after 8 February:

| *Title* | *Made* | *Laid* | *In force* |
|---|---|---|---|
| The Education (School Day and School Year) (England)-Regulations 2011 | 26 January 2011 | 2 February 2011 | 25 February 2011 |
| The School Teachers' Pay and Conditions (Amendment) Order 2011 | 31 January 2011 | 4 February 2011 | 25 February 2011 |

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many regulations sponsored by his Department have been *(a)* introduced and *(b)* revoked since 12 November 2010. [44368]

**Tim Loughton:** In the period 12 November 2010 to 2 March 2011, the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), *(a)* made 13 statutory instruments which came into force during the same period; and *(b)* revoked 14 statutory instruments or significant parts of statutory instruments, although in some cases the content of the revoked instrument has been largely replaced. The only Bill introduced during that period was the Education Bill.

## Departmental Security

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education which persons not employed by Government Departments or agencies hold passes entitling them to enter his Department's premises. [39269]

**Tim Loughton:** Passes may be issued to those who are required to make frequent visits to specific Government sites, subject to the usual security checks. For security reasons it would not be appropriate to provide details of individuals who hold such passes.

## Drugs: Education

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding his Department has allocated for drugs education in 2010-11. [39946]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 11 February 2011]:* The Government are committed to reducing substance misuse among young people, including drugs, alcohol and volatile substances. Education on these substances is a vital element of the current approach.

The Department does not provide ring-fenced funding for schools' drug education lessons which schools provide. It is for local authorities and schools to decide how to fund drug education within the overall resources available to them. Drug education ceased to be paid via the ring-fenced standards fund from April 2004.

For 2011-12, we are protecting school funding in the system at flat cash per pupil and have set a minimum funding guarantee so that no school will see a reduction compared with its 2010-11 budget (excluding sixth form funding) of more than 1.5% per pupil before the pupil premium is applied. The pupil premium is in addition to schools' budgets. The level of the premium will be £430 per pupil and will be the same for every deprived pupil, no matter where they live.

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to announce his Department's budget for the FRANK service for 2011-12. [45929]

**Sarah Teather:** The Government Drug Strategy, published in December 2010, made the commitment that, through the FRANK service, everyone, at any age, will have accurate and reliable information on the effects and harms of drugs, including new substances. It said that they will be able to access advice, information and support if they, their children, or someone they know is at risk of drug misuse. The three sponsor Departments for the FRANK service (Department for Education, Home Office and Department of Health) will collaborate to ensure that these commitments are met in the most cost-effective way possible.

### Education Maintenance Allowance

**Mr Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to monitor the effects of discontinuing the payment of education maintenance allowance on take-up rates of post-16 education *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each individual local authority areas. [40868]

**Mr Gibb:** We are considering the replacement for the education maintenance allowance and want to ensure that the funds we have are targeted on those young people who most need support to enable them to participate in education.

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what financial assistance other than the education maintenance allowance his Department provides to students before they reach further education. [42685]

**Mr Gibb:** The Department for Education has policy responsibility for students in schools and further education and training up to the age of 18 (or 25 for students with a learning difficulty or disability). For young people aged 16 to 18 in publicly funded further education (that is, in schools, colleges or other training prior to higher education), the Department provides a range of support including through:

The Care to Learn scheme which provides assistance for child care and related transport costs to enable young parents with responsibility for caring for their child to attend education or training. The scheme provides support of up to £160 a week (£175 in London). Child care costs are paid direct to the provider of child care.

Discretionary learner support funding is provided so that education and training providers can target financial help to students who they assess as having need of it in order to stay in education. Assistance may be provided in the form of goods or services, for example specialist equipment needed for the particular course, or through cash grants.

Additional learner support funds are also provided to education institutions and further education providers for the purpose of meeting the additional educational support needs that may be required for young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

**John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people applied for education maintenance allowance between 1 October and 1 January in each academic year since 2004. [43911]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 3 March 2011]:* This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for Glasgow North West (John Robertson) with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

*Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 7 March 2011:*

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ43911 that asked:

"How many people applied for education maintenance allowance between 1 October 2010 and 1 January 2011; and how many such applications were made in the same period since 2004."

The number of applications for Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) that were recorded between 1 October and 1 January for each year since inception is shown below.

| *Academic year* | *Applications* |
|---|---|
| 2010/11 | 76,874 |
| 2009/10 | 90,919 |
| 2008/09 | 44,186 |
| 2007/08 | 77,273 |
| 2006/07 | 78,524 |
| 2005/06 | 95,273 |
| 2004/05 | 59,521 |

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 is available on the YPLA website, at the following address;

http://ema.ypla.gov.uk/resources/research/takeup/

### Education Maintenance Allowance: Free School Meals

**John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of recipients of the education maintenance allowance received free school meals in each of the last three years. [39502]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 10 February 2011]:* No information is held on the proportion of recipients of the education maintenance allowance who also received free school meals.

### Electoral Reform Services

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the monetary value was of contracts his Department placed with Electoral Reform Services in each year since 2005. [44216]

**Tim Loughton:** The Department's central contract records show that it does not hold any current contracts with the Electoral Reform Services. However, a search of our finance system has shown that payments totalling £670,000 were made between March and July 2005. To find out the monetary value of this contract would incur disproportionate costs.

### Food: Procurement

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects his Department to meet the Government's commitment to source food that meets British or equivalent standards of production. [43322]

**Tim Loughton:** The Department for Education is already fully committed to sourcing food that meets British or equivalent standards of production.

Products are sourced from suppliers and companies that either hold certification to the higher British Retail Consortium global food safety standards or their equivalents. Also supply of chilled meat and poultry is all Red Tractor Farm assured.

The only exception is procurement of bacon on cost grounds in line with the commitment that the Government would

> "ensure that food procured by government departments meets British standards of production wherever this can be achieved without increasing overall cost."

### Foster Care

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will bring forward proposals to amend the law relating to those seeking to become foster parents to enable people to foster children regardless of their religious views. [44314]

**Tim Loughton:** The statutory framework for foster care does not prevent a person holding any particular religious views from becoming a foster carer. Revised National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services coming into force on 1 April make clear that anyone interested in becoming a foster carer should be treated fairly, without prejudice, openly and with respect.

However, the needs of children must be paramount. A fostering service, when deciding if a person is suitable to foster, should consider the person's capacity to care for children with complex needs (who may be from diverse backgrounds) and to put the child's needs first.

### Free Schools

**Bob Stewart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what factors he takes into consideration when determining whether the proposed location of a free school will have a detrimental effect on admissions to existing schools in the locality. [36008]

**Mr Gibb:** The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), has a duty under section 9 of the Academies Act 2010 to consider what impact establishing an additional school would have on existing maintained schools, academies and further education institutions before entering into an academy arrangement for a free school. When exercising this duty, the Secretary of State takes account of a number of factors including the effect on local provision in terms of choice and standards, and any representations made by the relevant local authority, local schools and further education colleges.

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education which organisations have expressed an interest in establishing a free school for people aged 16 to 19 years only; and where he expects each such school to open. [37832]

**Mr Gibb:** As at 3 February 2011, the Department has received 10 proposals to establish free schools specifically for 16 to 19-year-olds. Six of these proposals are currently being considered by officials and four have been informed that their proposals have been unsuccessful. Of the six proposals under consideration, the proposers plan to open schools in the following local authority areas:

Brighton and Hove
Devon
Dudley
Kent
Milton Keynes
Warwickshire

**Dr Wollaston:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many proposals for free schools he has received from *(a)* Totnes constituency, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* England. [40232]

**Mr Gibb:** As at 25 February 2011, we have received one proposal from the Totnes constituency, 29 proposals from the South West region, and a total of 329 for England.

### Further Education

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent steps the Government has taken to encourage young people to undertake further education. [43004]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* The Government have made a clear commitment to raising the participation age to 17 in 2013 and 18 in 2015. This includes a major commitment in the spending review of October 2010 to fund sufficient education and training places. In addition, we are simplifying the post-16 commissioning system to free providers from red tape, introducing a funding system based on "lagged" student numbers that will ensure that funding follows students' choices, and continuing the process of ensuring that all 16 to 17-year-olds receive a suitable offer of a place in education or training to help match supply and demand. The Government are also ending the disparity between post-16 funding between schools and colleges. We are giving schools responsibility for careers guidance at Key Stages 3 and 4 to ensure that it is fully tailored to young people's needs. Local authorities retain their statutory duty to encourage and enable young people to participate in education and training.

There is also a strong demand for Apprenticeship places and the Government are committed to significant growth in the programme.

### Sex and Relationship Education

**Andrea Leadsom:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) if he will bring forward proposals to require *(a)* schools to inform parents of the content of sex education lessons and *(b)* parents to opt in to such lessons; [43732]

(2) if he will bring forward proposals to require primary schools to inform school governors of the teaching materials used in sex education lessons; [43733]

(3) what requirements his Department places on primary schools in respect of the teaching of sex education; and if he will bring forward proposals to require the suppliers of teaching materials for sex education lessons to be licensed. [43734]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 3 March 2011]:* School governing bodies have a statutory responsibility to ensure that schools have a policy for teaching about sex education which, as a minimum, should provide information about how sex education will be provided, any sensitive issues that will be covered and who will provide it. The policy must be made available to parents on request and must include information about parents' right to withdraw their children from sex and relationships (SRE) provided outside the national curriculum.

We believe it is important that all children have access to high quality SRE so they can make wise and informed choices. Those parents who do not believe that their children are ready to receive SRE at school, or who want to provide it themselves are able to withdraw their children from SRE lessons.

Members of school governing bodies are already responsible for deciding what information the school should make available to them. It is therefore not necessary to require schools to inform school governors of the teaching material used in sex education. In practice this will already happen as part of the governing body's statutory responsibility to have a sex education policy.

When providing sex education all schools must have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State published in 2000. This is designed to ensure that pupils receiving sex education learn about the nature of marriage and its importance for family life and the upbringing of children. Furthermore, it is designed to protect pupils from teaching and materials which are inappropriate having regard to the age and religious and cultural background of the pupils concerned.

The guidance provides information about how schools can set in place arrangements to protect pupils from inappropriate teaching and materials. The guidance can be viewed at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationdetail/page1/DfES%200116%202000

We believe it is important that teachers have good quality teaching material to support them in providing sex education, but that they should have the flexibility to use their own professional judgment in deciding such matters, taking account of the guidance, the needs of pupils and the ethos of the school. We have no plans, therefore, to require the suppliers of teaching materials for sex education to be licensed.

### Higher Education: Fees and Charges

**Mr Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether all higher education institutions charging more than £6,000 in annual tuition fees will be eligible to join the National Scholarship Scheme from 2012. [40882]

**Mr Gibb:** I refer the hon. Member for Bolton North East to the reply given by the Minister of State for Universities and Science, my right hon. Friend the Member for Havant (Mr Willetts), on 16 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 876-77W.

### Holocaust Educational Trust

**Mr Buckland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has made an assessment of the effects of the Holocaust Educational Trust's Lessons from Auschwitz project. [38685]

**Mr Gibb:** This Department has not carried out any formal assessment on the effects of the Holocaust Educational Trust's (HET) Lessons from Auschwitz (LFA) project, but officials regularly meet HET to discuss the progress of the project. HET did commission the Institute of Education to carry out an evaluation of the LFA project in 2009, which sampled five LFA regions which took part in the project in the spring and summer of 2009. Among the key findings were that 98% of participants assessed the project as excellent and 2% as good, and 74% of teachers either agreed or strongly agreed that participation in the project had positively impacted on the school's teaching and learning about the Holocaust. Over 6,200 students and 1,700 teachers in England have participated in the project since it began in 1999.

### Ilkley School

**Kris Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to visit Ilkley grammar school in Keighley constituency. [37258]

**Mr Gibb:** An official will contact Ilkley grammar school with a suggested date in due course.

### English Baccalaureate

**Steve Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will assess the merits of broadening the scope of the English Baccalaureate to include *(a)* philosophy, *(b)* economics, *(c)* religious studies and *(d)* other humanities subjects. [41581]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 28 February 2011]*: We are concerned that the number of pupils, especially those in disadvantaged areas, who receive a broad education in core academic subjects is far too small. Through the introduction of the English Baccalaureate, we want to encourage more pupils to take these core subjects and to bring about greater fairness of opportunity.

The English Baccalaureate is not intended to include all the subjects worthy of study. We recognise that study in other subjects will be just as valuable to pupils and we will encourage all pupils to study non-English Baccalaureate subjects alongside the English Baccalaureate in order to benefit from a well-rounded education. This is why we have kept the number of core subjects in the English Baccalaureate small enough to allow wider study. Subjects, such as religious studies, philosophy, and economics, which do not count towards the English Baccalaureate, can and will play a part in a well rounded, rigorous education. Achievement in these subjects will continue to be recognised in the performance tables as part of the A*-C measure and the teaching of religious education remains compulsory throughout a pupil's schooling. However we remain open to arguments about how we can further improve every measure in the performance tables—including the English Baccalaureate.

### Languages: Teachers

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has plans to increase the number of language teachers in primary and secondary schools. [39531]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 14 February 2011]*: The Secretary of State for Education wrote to the Training and Development Agency for Schools on 31 January with the details of the initial teacher training place allocations and training bursary amounts for academic year 2011/12. Despite falling secondary pupil rolls and reductions in the secondary allocation overall, the secondary language place allocation has been protected with 100 more places than the previous year to take account of the introduction of the English Baccalaureate. Future year allocations will continue to take account of the English Baccalaureate and other policy developments. We are also maintaining the training bursary level for modern foreign languages at £6,000 in 2011/12 to help with recruitment.

The Schools White Paper 2010, "The Importance of Teaching", sets out the Government's commitment to attract more of the best graduates in shortage subjects, including modern foreign languages, into teaching. We will publish a strategy document for discussion later this year setting out our plans for funding initial teacher training from academic year 2012/13.

We are currently considering the funding and support structures that might best be used to improve language teaching in schools, including the primary school workforce.

### Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department has set a timetable for its internal review of personal, social, health and economic education. [46301]

**Mr Gibb:** The Department is considering the precise remit for its internal review of Personal, Social, Health and Economic education and has not yet set a timetable. Further information about the review, including a proposed timetable will be available in due course.

### Pupil Premium

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much he expects to allocate to Warrington local authority area under his plans for the pupil premium in the year 2011-12. [39948]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 11 February 2011]*: The January 2010 school censuses allow an estimate of the number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals, or to be looked-after children to be made.

In Warrington in January 2010 there were 3,610 pupils known to be eligible, which would give rise to a pupil premium of £1,552,300. In addition to this there were 10 pupils known to be eligible for the service child premium, paid at a lower rate of £200 per pupil, which would give rise to a further £2,000. However, these are estimates only.

### Residential Schools: Finance

**Stephen Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what funding his Department provided to residential schools to cover the costs of meeting the mobility needs of pupils when participating in community activities as set out in Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in the latest period for which figures are available; [41377]

(2) what funding his Department provided to residential schools to cover the costs of meeting the mobility needs of pupils spending time with their families at weekends in the latest period for which figures are available. [41378]

**Mr Gibb:** There are no specific funds provided by the Department to residential schools for meeting the cost of mobility needs of children. From April, education services are funded through the dedicated schools grant and the local government finance scheme. It is for local authorities to decide on how those resources are allocated, including in respect of children whom they fund in residential schools. Capital funding is also provided by this Department to local authorities and to schools which can be used to provide facilities that meet mobility needs where this is the local priority. We are currently reviewing the schools funding system and this will include a review of the funding for children with special education needs and disability.

### Schools: Buildings

**Mr Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools or school buildings his Department estimates will be built using prefabricated or flatpack buildings in 2010-11. [42718]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 1 March 2011]*: The Department for Education does not hold data on how many schools or school buildings will be built using prefabricated or flatpack buildings in 2010-11.

### Schools: Finance

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects to announce the allocation of the Local Authority Targeted Intervention Grant. authorities. [39938]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 11 February 2011]*: The Local Authority Targeted Intervention Grant will cease at the end of the 2010-11 financial year. The 2010-11 allocation was £16.1 million.

On 3 November 2010, the Government announced a new £110 million Education Endowment Fund (the EEF), focused on raising the attainment of disadvantaged pupils in underperforming schools. Local authorities, schools, voluntary and community sector organisations, charities and social enterprises will be able to bid to the Fund for resources to test out bold and innovative approaches focused on disadvantaged pupils.

### Schools: Leeds

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the requirement for building repairs in schools in Leeds North West constituency; and what estimate has been made of the cost of repair in each such case. [43180]

**Mr Gibb:** The Department has made no assessment of the requirement and cost of building repairs in schools in Leeds North West. It is the responsibility of each local authority to assess the building requirements of the schools in its area and prioritise the available resources.

## Schools: Sports

**Nic Dakin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 21 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1245W, on school sport partnerships: finance, (1) whether his Department made an assessment of the capacity of partnership development managers to co-ordinate voluntary sports club work with local schools prior to its decision to end funding for school sport partnerships; [34874]

(2) whether his Department took account of the economies of scale for schools arising from school sport partnerships prior to *(a)* the decision to end funding of such partnerships and *(b)* the review of that decision; [34893]

(3) whether his Department made an assessment of the capacity of school sport partnerships to co-ordinate the work of national governing bodies of sport with schools in a local area prior to his decision to end funding for school sport partnerships from April 2011. [34894]

**Tim Loughton** *[holding answer 20 January 2011]*: The Government have protected the schools budget in the recent spending review, at a time when cutting the national deficit is an urgent national priority. We trust schools to take their own financial decisions when planning a truly rounded education including physical education and competitive sport. Many schools have said that they value the work of school sport partnerships, and so—under the freedoms given to school leaders by this Government—those schools will be able to continue to work in partnerships, if they wish.

The Department for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport through Sport England is continuing to invest in national governing bodies of sport to ensure that strong links between schools and community sport clubs are developed and retained. In addition, Sport England is committing up to £35.5 million of lottery funding from now to 2014/15 towards a new 'School Games' to encourage greater participation in competitive sport, and to which every school will be invited to sign up.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of funding to support participation in school games by pupils in primary schools which will be allocated to each region in each of the next two years. [41287]

**Tim Loughton:** The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Mr Gove), is making available £65 million of new funding for schools in England to enable them to provide more opportunities for competitive sport. This funding will cover school years 2011/12 and 2012/13 and will pay for one day a week of a secondary PE teacher's time to be spent out of the classroom, encouraging greater take-up of competitive sport in primary schools and securing a fixture network for schools to increase the amount of intra and inter-school sporting competition. The Department will be writing to schools later this year to provide further details about this funding.

In addition, the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), recently announced outline plans for a network of school games organisers in England from September 2011. These organisers will be funded for three days a week to help schools sign up for the nationwide school games. Further details of these organiser posts and their precise roles will be announced shortly.

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for *(a)* Communities and Local Government and *(b)* Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on the use of sports and leisure facilities at (i) primary, (ii) secondary and (iii) specialist sports schools and colleges by local communities. [42812]

**Tim Loughton** *[holding answer 28 February 2011]*: I usually have weekly meetings with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), about the school games. Discussion at these meetings covers a wide range of issues, of interest to both Departments.

Schools can choose to offer extended services, which can include making sports and leisure facilities available to their local communities. Extended services often take place outside of normal school hours and can also include access to child care, sports or cultural activities and support for learning.

In the Schools White Paper "The Importance of Teaching" published in November 2010, we said we will rely on schools to work together with voluntary, business and statutory agencies to create an environment where every child can learn, and can experience new and challenging opportunities through extended services.

The comprehensive spending review 2010 announced that the amount of extended services funding currently provided through the Department's standards fund will form part of the overall schools revenue baseline from April 2011. Schools will have freedom and flexibility to spend their budgets to support their pupils in the ways they judge best.

The Department has published information about extended services, which can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/popularquestions/schools/typesofschools/extendedschools/a005585/what-are-extended-services

## Schools: Transport

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will make it his policy that children on transport provided for school travel purposes must be accompanied by a supervisor travelling in each vehicle. [40143]

**Mr Gibb:** Sections 508B and 508C of the Education Act 1996 place a duty on local authorities to ensure that suitable travel arrangements are made, where necessary, to facilitate a child's attendance at school. These arrangements may include being accompanied by a supervising adult. However, the Government believe that local authorities, having taken account of the individual needs of the child and local circumstances, are best placed to determine whether a supervising adult should be provided.

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the terms of reference are for the review of school transport including transport for 16 to 18 year olds; and when he expects the review to be completed. [41945]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* Home to school transport policy has remained largely unchanged since the 1944 Act when the social, economic and education environment was very different. The Department is considering home to school transport and in particular how best practice can be spread to all local authorities. We will make further announcements in due course.

### Schools: Vocational Guidance

**Mr Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what requirement his Department places on schools to provide careers education and guidance; and if he will make a statement. [45171]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 8 March 2011]:* Through the Education Bill schools will be placed under a new duty to secure access to independent, impartial careers guidance for all pupils aged 13 to 16. Schools will be free to determine how best to fulfil this duty based on the needs of their pupils but the careers guidance must include information on 16 to 18 education or training options, including apprenticeships.

As the Education Bill makes its way through Parliament, we will remind schools of the importance of offering the broad range of activities encompassed within the term 'careers education' to prepare pupils for future learning. This will help to place careers guidance in context and support the development of decision making and career management skills for all young people.

### Teachers: Conditions of Employment

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will make it his policy to provide that learning activities outside the classroom are not affected by the requirement that teachers rarely cover for absent colleagues; and if he will make a statement. [41190]

**Mr Gibb:** It is the Government's intention to provide schools with greater freedoms and flexibilities.

We trust schools to make sensible decisions about opportunities for education outside the classroom through forward planning and careful scheduling of these activities. Where this happens, the rarely cover provisions should not prove to be an obstacle to children being able to learn outside the classroom.

### Teachers: Professional Development

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on continuing professional development for the teaching profession. [37038]

**Mr Gibb:** We are committed to encouraging schools to demonstrate a strong culture of professional development where teachers take responsibility for leading their own and others' development and by sharing effective practice within schools and between schools. The White Paper "The Importance of Teaching", published on 24 November, outlined our approach.

We will create a new national network of Teaching Schools, building on the good work of existing Training Schools and National Teaching Schools—over 800 have applied already. These outstanding schools will be responsible for leading the training and professional development of teachers and head teachers so that schools can have access to highly effective professional development support.

A new competitive Scholarship Fund will be introduced this year to provide opportunities for teachers to deepen and enhance their subject knowledge, so that they are seen, alongside university academics, as the guardians of the intellectual life of the nation.

We will also review the proliferation of existing teacher standards to ensure that our expectations of teachers are clear, making it easier to assess teacher performance and encourage professional development.

### Teachers: Recruitment

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to ensure the teaching profession attracts and retains high-quality candidates. [18238]

**Mr Gibb:** Our plans for ensuring that the teaching profession attracts and retains high quality teachers are contained in The Schools White Paper 2010 'The Importance of Teaching'.

We will raise the quality of new entrants to the teaching profession by ceasing to provide Department for Education funding for initial teacher training for those graduates who do not have at least a 2:2 degree, expanding Teach First across the country and into primary schools, offering financial incentives to attract more of the very best graduates in shortage subjects into teaching and enabling more talented career changers to become teachers by creating new employment based training programmes.

We will also reform initial teacher training so that more training is on the job and it focuses on key skills such as teaching early reading and mathematics, managing behaviour and responding to pupil's special educational needs.

We will also remove some of the negatives that have tended to keep people out of teaching. We will be tacking bureaucracy at source, stripping out unnecessary obligations, simplifying inspections, giving heads the power to ensure discipline and good behaviour in the classroom and ensuring that schools have flexibility over pay, so they can reward teachers appropriately.

### Teachers: Training

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education by what date he expects to have determined teacher training allocations for the 2011-12 academic year. [35234]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 21 January 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Education wrote to the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) on 31 January 2011 to notify them of the national initial teacher training place allocations for academic year 2011/12. The TDA has now given initial teacher training providers the details of their individual allocations for that period.

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many information and communication technologies PGCE students in *(a)* England and *(b)* the west midlands received funding from the further education initial teacher training bursary in each of the last five years; [42179]

(2) how many history PGCE students in *(a)* England and *(b)* the west midlands received funding from the further education initial teacher training bursary in each of the last five years; [42180]

(3) how many PGCE students in *(a)* England and *(b)* the west midlands received funding from the further education initial teacher training bursary in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [42181]

**Mr Gibb:** The requested information is not collected centrally. The available information relates to the number of trainees who were potentially eligible for training bursaries. The table provides this information for postgraduate trainees in the first year of History, ICT and overall initial teacher training (ITT) mainstream courses in the west midlands and England

*Number of postgraduate first year trainees eligible for bursary by selected subject and region. Years: 2006/07 to 2010/11. Coverage: west midlands and England*

| | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *West midlands* | | | | | |
| History | 95 | 80 | 70 | 75 | 70 |
| ICT | 175 | 115 | 110 | 125 | 120 |
| Total primary and secondary | 2,470 | 2,300 | 2,250 | 2,585 | 2,595 |
| *England* | | | | | |
| History | 725 | 675 | 625 | 585 | 520 |
| ICT | 910 | 815 | 780 | 835 | 860 |
| Total primary and secondary | 24,540 | 23,550 | 23,435 | 24,965 | 24,375 |

*Notes:*
1. Numbers rounded to nearest five.
2. ICT numbers include Applied ICT.
*Source:*
TDA Trainee Number Census

**Lyn Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to provide replacement arrangements for services no longer provided by the Training and Development Agency. [43779]

**Mr Gibb:** As part of our work to ensure that we are able to achieve the Department's policy priorities and as part of the Public Bodies Review, we looked at the key functions and programmes carried out by the Training and Development Agency (TDA) and other departmental organisations. We tested the potential for strengthened accountability to Parliament, greater value for money and reduced bureaucracy, In the case of the TDA, and subject to legislation, we decided that the key functions will transfer to the Department for Education, where they will be exercised by an Executive agency that is directly accountable to Ministers.

## Think Family Scheme: Finance

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department allocated to the Think Family scheme in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [40704]

**Tim Loughton:** The Department allocated £94.1 million for the Think Family Grant in 2010-11. This was the first year Think Family Grant funding was allocated.

## Three Valleys Independent Academy

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many representations from parents supporting the establishment of a Three Valleys Independent Academy in Rotherham his Department has received; [34640]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence his Department has received in support of a Three Valleys Independent Academy in Rotherham. [34641]

**Mr Gibb:** As part of their proposal, the Nationwide Independent College of Higher Education provided the Department with representations from 423 supporters. 219 are parents who have indicated that they would consider sending their children to the proposed Three Valleys Independent Academy.

The majority of these representations are as part of a petition or short standard statement of support, and we regard them as made in confidence to the proposer.

## Vocational Guidance

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of geographical variation in the *(a)* quality and *(b)* availability of careers advice and guidance. [36822]

**Mr Gibb:** Evidence suggests that Connexions services are not consistently providing high quality careers guidance to young people. The Ofsted report "Moving Through The System", published in March 2010, reported that there was considerable variability in the quality of information, advice and guidance provided. In a 2010 survey by the Edge Foundation, 51% of young people reported that information, advice and guidance is not meeting their needs. The Government want to restore a focus on independent, professional careers guidance for young people and adults which is based on accurate labour market information and strong evidence about the impact of individuals' decisions on their future prospects.

**Mrs Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what mechanisms he plans to put in place to ensure that common professional standards for careers and Connexions services in local authorities are maintained in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* subsequent years of the comprehensive spending review period; [36925]

(2) what plans he has to ensure that standards of impartiality, quality and consistency of careers advice are maintained following the devolution of responsibility for commissioning such services to schools. [36926]

**Mr Gibb:** Alongside the establishment of an all-age careers service, schools will be required to secure access for their pupils to independent, impartial careers guidance.

The Government are taking steps to raise the quality and profile of the careers profession, and have accepted the recommendations of the Careers Profession Task Force, set out in its report, "Towards a Strong Careers Profession", published in October 2010. The 14 recommendations include the development of common professional standards and a code of ethics. A strong emphasis is also placed on ensuring all careers advisers receive effective initial training and continuing professional development to carry out their role. The Government are working with the Careers Profession Alliance and other sector organisations to implement these recommendations.

## Written Questions: Government Responses

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer questions *(a)* 34640, *(b)* 34641 and *(c)* 34651 on the establishment of an academy in Rotherham, tabled on 18 January 2011. [41158]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 15 February 2011]:* A response to the right hon. Member's question 34651 was issued on 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1117W. Responses to the right hon. Member's questions 34640 and 34641 have been issued today.

**Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer *(a)* question 39708, on the harnessing technology grant, and *(b)* question 39707, on the pupil premium, tabled on 7 February 2011 for named day answer on 10 February 2011. [46607]

**Mr Gibb:** A response to the hon. Member's question 39707 was issued on 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1238W.

A response to the hon. Member's question 39708 was issued on 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1233W.

## Young People: Protection

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people aged 16 and 17 years were accepted by local authorities as being owed a duty under section 20 of the Children Act 1989 in each quarter since Q1 2009. [43710]

**Tim Loughton:** The number of people aged 16 and 17 years who were accepted by local authorities as being owed a duty under section 20 of the Children Act 1989 in each quarter since Q1 2009, is shown in the following table.

*Children who started to be looked after under section 20 during the year, aged 16 and 17 by the quarter in which they started[1,2,3]. Year ending 31 March 2010. Coverage: England*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| All children aged 16 and 17 who started during the year | 3,000 |
| *Quarter* | |
| 1 April to 30 June 2009 | 620 |
| 1 July to 30 September 2009 | 860 |
| 1 October to 31 December 2009 | 760 |
| 1 January to 31 March 2010 | 730 |

[1] Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000, and to the nearest 10, otherwise.

[2] Only the first occasion on which a child started to be looked after in the year has been counted. Consequently, if a child started more than one period of care, each in a different quarter, he/she has only been counted in the earlier quarter.

[3] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements.

*Source:*
SSDA 903

## Youth Crime Action Plan: Finance

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department allocated to the Youth Crime Action Plan in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [40708]

**Tim Loughton:** The then Department for Children, Schools and Families allocated the following funding for the Youth Crime Action Plan:

| | *Funding allocated (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 8.600 |
| 2009-10 | 23.000 |
| 2010-11 | [1]28.000 |

[1] The ring-fence on this funding was removed in June 2010.

## Youth Opportunity Fund: Finance

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department allocated to the Youth Opportunity Fund in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [40707]

**Tim Loughton:** Table 1 shows the allocations made nationally by the Department for the Youth Opportunity Fund in these three years.

*Table 1: Youth Opportunity Fund*

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 35.75 |
| 2009-10 | 40.75 |
| 2010-11 | 40.75 |

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Afghanistan: Drugs

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the level of narcotics production in Afghanistan. [45389]

**Mr Hague:** The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)'s most recent Annual Opium Survey, published in December 2010, reported that the potential opium production in Afghanistan was 3,600 metric tonnes, down from 6,900 metric tonnes in 2009. The UNODC has predicted a slight fall in poppy cultivation in 2011 from last year's level of 123,000 hectares—though it should be stressed that this is indicative only.

The UNODC Cannabis Survey of April 2010 estimated cannabis cultivation at between 10,000-24,000 hectares and cannabis resin production at between 1,500-3,500 metric tonnes. We await publication of UNODC's latest cannabis survey, due in April 2011.

### Afghanistan: Politics and Government

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his US counterpart on the appointment of a US special representative to Afghanistan. [45354]

**Mr Hague:** The appointment of a US special representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan was a decision that the US alone made. In my statement on 19 February, following the announcement by the US Secretary of State, I welcomed Mr Grossman's appointment. I look forward to working closely with him and continuing our co-operation on this important foreign policy area.

### Arms Trade: Treaties

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what dates he expects to participate in meetings at the UN to discuss the proposed International Arms Trade Treaty. [45317]

**Mr Hague:** Participation in UN meetings on the Arms Trade Treaty is undertaken at official level. Our delegation is led, at senior official level, by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and contains representatives from other Government Departments. The latest Arms Trade Treaty Preparatory Committee meeting took place at the UN in New York from 28 February 2011 to 4 March 2011. The UK continued to play a leading role in negotiations, and good progress was made at the meeting.

The next Preparatory Committee meeting will take place from 11 to 15 July 2011. This will be followed, in 2012, by a further Preparatory Committee meeting dealing with procedural matters for the Diplomatic Conference later that year. The exact dates of these meetings have yet to be confirmed. We remain committed to securing a robust and effective Arms Trade Treaty.

### Departmental Land

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to reduce the size of his Department's estate; and if he will make a statement. [45894]

**Alistair Burt:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) constantly reviews its global estate in the light of changing operational needs to optimise the use of its property assets. As a consequence the FCO regularly acquires and disposes of its property assets. In 2009 the Treasury set the FCO an asset sales target of £25 million for the financial years 2010-11.

Between 2011-12 and 2013-14 we have identified 71 potentially redundant properties for disposal with a total book value of £131.25 million. In order to maximise the price received for the sale of our assets, it is not our policy to provide exact details of our sales programme, nor the price we expect to receive in advance of formal marketing.

Details of sales completed are reported quarterly to the Foreign Affairs Committee. Book value for each property is based on value as assessed by independent chartered surveyors commissioned to undertake the rolling programme of revaluations.

In the UK we are working with the Government Property Unit to ensure our Whitehall offices are of a size to meet best practice.

### Departmental Procurement

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which procurement projects engaged upon by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental public body and agency for which he is responsible had a designated senior responsible owner in the latest period for which figures are available; and on what date each officer was appointed in each such case. [45562]

**Alistair Burt:** The following table lists projects and their senior responsible owners (SRO), where this information is available.

| *Department* | *Project* | *SRO appointment* |
|---|---|---|
| Foreign and Commonwealth Office | Diplomatic Bag | 18 November 2010 |
| | Passport Secure Delivery | 15 December 2009 |
| | Fortress IV - High Classification system | 1 December 2010 |
| | Overseas Standard IT | 1 October 2010 |
| | Echo (global voice and data services) | May 2009 |
| | Conrad (Consular assistance systems) | 14 January 2011 |

| *Department* | *Project* | *SRO appointment* |
|---|---|---|
| | Legalisation System Improvement Project | 21 January 2011 |
| | BRIT 2—Passports | 1 October 2009 |
| | Minerva | 29 July 2010 |
| | Arcane—High Class System | 1 October 2011 |
| | eDisclosure—Scope | 23 February 2011 |
| British Council | Books and Multimedia Tender | 11 September 2009 |
| | Career Transition Support | 3 July 2009 |
| | COLA and Location Allowance contract | 28 January2009 |
| | Cultural Relations through Sport Services | 6 August 2009 |
| | Education UK—Content and Print | 9 July 2009 |
| | Fundraising for Skills for Employability | 14 December 2009 |
| | Global HR Transformation—e-HR | 25 August 2009 |
| | Global Innovation Lab | 22 January 2010 |
| | GPC3 Framework | 4 December 2009 |
| | Ground Transportation Project | 29 April 2009 |
| | Justice Sector Development Programme | 13 July 2009 |
| | Legal services | 19 January 2010 |
| | Market Research Roster | 4 January 2010 |
| | Going Global | 18 November 2009 |
| | Security Services | 11 February 2010 |
| | Selector Radio—production | 18 August 2010 |
| | Graphic design services | 27 December 2009 |
| | Legal services | 29 January2010 |
| | Audio Visual services | 21 July 2010 |
| | Working with Major Donors | 15 December2009 |
| | European Voluntary Service Training Provision | 8 September 2010 |

Projects are generally devolved to directorates and a full list where an SRO has been appointed could be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

## France: Anti-Semitism

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on prosecutions for anti-Semitic comments in France; what recent discussions he has had with the Government of France on levels of anti-Semitism in France; and if he will make a statement. [45592]

**Mr Lidington:** The French Government do not record prosecutions for anti-Semitic acts separately from other forms of discrimination. We have not had any recent discussions with France on the levels of anti-Semitism in France. The UK is committed to fighting discrimination and intolerance. We have recently published the Government's first progress update report on our work to take forward the recommendations of the 2006 All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Anti-Semitism.

## Human Trafficking

**Mr Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contribution his Department has made to the Government's review of human trafficking. [46309]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** Combating human trafficking is a key Government priority, as made clear in the coalition programme for Government. Officials from my Department have contributed to the review, led by the Home Office, into the Government's approach to work on human trafficking, and are contributing to the development of the new human trafficking strategy. I sit on the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking, which will follow closely the strategy's implementation.

## Israel: Arrests

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to his Israeli counterpart in relation to the arrest of Naji Tamimi on 7 March 2011. [46088]

**Alistair Burt:** We are aware that Naji Tamimi was arrested on 7 March during an army raid on the village and are concerned about what appears to be a rise in arrests in Nabi Saleh over the last five weeks. Staff from our consulate general in Jerusalem have also visited Nabi Saleh and met Mr Tamimi, as part of an EU delegation to the village.

We have been following the cases of people arrested in the village, including 14-year-old Islam Tamimi. A member of our consulate general staff will be attending Mr Tamimi's first court hearing on 13 March. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond

(Yorks) (Mr Hague) met non violent human rights defenders in Ramallah during his visit in November 2010.

The UK recognises the rights of Palestinians to protest peacefully against occupation including against the illegal route of the separation wall that cuts into the west bank, often severing villages from land on which their livelihoods depend. Peaceful protests form an important element of the Palestinian Authority's two-year plan published in August 2009. This plan was explicitly supported by the 27 member states of the European Union in the December 2009 conclusions of the EU Foreign Affairs Council.

### Israel: Politics and Government

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he had with his US counterpart on the US veto of the proposed UN Security Council resolution of 18 February 2011 on Israeli settlements. [45327]

**Mr Hague:** The Government maintain close contact, at ministerial and official level, with the US Administration on the Middle East Peace Process. I discussed the resolution with the US Secretary of State in advance of the vote. The US decided to exercise their veto and set out their reasons in a statement following the vote.

### Libya

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what official visits Ministers from his Department have made to Libya since 1997; and for what purpose. [43980]

**Alistair Burt:** Previous visits to Libya by Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers since diplomatic relations were restored in 1999 include:

The former Member for North Warwickshire, Mike O'Brien, FCO Minister of State in August 2002.

The noble Lord Digby Jones, Minister of State jointly with the FCO and Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR), 13 May 2008.

The former Member for Harlow, Bill Rammell, FCO Minister of State in February 2009.

The noble Lord Malloch-Brown, FCO Minister of State in July 2009 to attend the Africa Union Summit.

Ministers take part in regular meetings and overseas visits to discuss a range of matters with interlocutors. The last visit to Libya by a Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister was that of the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend (Mr Bellingham) in November 2010, who attended the EU-Africa Summit in Tripoli.

### Libya: British Nationals Abroad

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* British and *(b)* non-British nationals have used flights from Libya chartered by his Department. [43827]

**Alistair Burt:** Around 390 British nationals and 180 non-British nationals used the six flights organised by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office which departed from Tripoli for the UK.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what cost his Department has incurred on chartering aircraft to Libya to evacuate British nationals to date; and how many British nationals have been evacuated by such means. [43885]

**Alistair Burt:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) organised six flights which departed from Tripoli. The total cost of flights chartered by the FCO was £852,738. Around 500 British nationals were evacuated by these means.

As the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend, said in his statement on 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-645, we continue to provide assistance and information for any more British nationals who decide they want to leave.

### Middle East: Peace Negotiations

**Mr Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the likelihood of a new Palestinian state comprising both the west bank and the Gaza strip. [46305]

**Alistair Burt:** The Palestinian Authority has made progress in building institutions of state. The UK has long supported the creation of a Palestinian state, but it remains unclear when this is likely to come into being.

We continue to believe that the best way to achieve a lasting solution that delivers a sovereign, independent and contiguous Palestinian state alongside a safe and secure Israel at peace with its neighbours is through a negotiated solution. We will be doing everything we can to achieve this by September and look to both parties to return to negotiations as soon as possible on the basis of clear parameters that we set out with France and Germany on 18 February.

### Middle East: Politics and Government

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department plans to review its programme spending following recent unrest in the middle east. [45375]

**Mr Hague:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office routinely reviews its programme spending plans to ensure that funds are being used most effectively to achieve our foreign policy priorities.

Recent events in the middle east will be considered as part of the review process.

### Religious Hatred: Crimes of Violence

**Paul Uppal:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to reduce the incidence of violent attacks targeted against people with a particular religious belief or ethnicity in other countries. [45315]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** We strongly support the right to freedom of religion or belief as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as the full implementation of the 1981 United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief.

Our high commissions and embassies receive information on human rights, including allegations of abuse, from a wide variety of sources. These include local non-governmental organisations, human rights defenders and local media. Our high commissions and embassies use this information in their assessment of the local human rights situation, and raise allegations of human rights abuses with host Governments on a case-by-case basis. Where possible our embassies take action on individual cases where persecution or discrimination has occurred. We also lobby for changes in discriminatory practices and laws and work with host Governments to encourage intercultural and inter-religious dialogue. We condemn all instances of violence and discrimination against individuals and groups because of their faith or belief.

### Russia: Immigration

**Mr Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his counterpart in the Russian Federation on the entry into the UK of Russian citizens with criminal records. [45328]

**Mr Lidington:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has held no such consultations with Foreign Minister Lavrov.

### Sudan: Politics and Government

**Mr Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effects of humanitarian conditions in the Abyei region of Sudan on prospects for resolution of the status of the region. [45774]

**Mr Lidington:** We are concerned by the humanitarian impact of the recent fighting in the Abyei region. We estimate that 20,000 to 25,000 people have been displaced in the region between 27 February and 4 March due to violence. Such instability and suffering underlines the need for the Sudanese parties to find an urgent political settlement for the region.

**Mr Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the burning of villages in the Abyei region of Sudan. [45775]

**Mr Lidington:** We are very concerned at the recent clashes in the Abyei region. It is essential that the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) has freedom of movement to monitor the situation on the ground. In a statement on 3 March 2011 the UN Security Council condemned the violence, underlined the urgent need for a political settlement on the status of Abyei and called on both Sudanese parties to allow full and unhindered access for UNMIS.

**Mr Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the judgment by the Permanent Court of Arbitration on the borders of the Abyei region of Sudan. [45776]

**Mr Lidington:** The Permanent Court of Arbitration issued its judgment on the Abyei boundary on 22 July 2009. Both the National Congress Party and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement agreed to abide by the decision. We have received no recent reports on the judgment.

### Tripoli: Embassies

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons he decided to close the British Embassy in Tripoli. [44890]

**Alistair Burt** *[holding answer 9 March 2011]:* As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said in his statement to the House on 28 February 2011, the decision of when to suspend operations at our embassy in Tripoli was an important one. It was based on concerns for the safety of our staff in the light of the deteriorating security situation and our wider decision to evacuate British nationals from Libya.

The Turkish embassy in Tripoli will look after British interests while our embassy's operations remain suspended.

## HEALTH

### Abortion Act 1967

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the policy of the Government is on initiating legislative proposals to amend the Abortion Act 1967; and if he will make a statement. [45603]

**Anne Milton:** It is accepted parliamentary practice that proposals for changes in the law on abortion come from Back-Bench Members and that decisions are made on the basis of free votes.

### Blood Transfusions

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many blood platelet transfusions there were in each region in 2010; how many units of platelets were transfused; and if he will make a statement. [45433]

**Anne Milton:** The information requested is not collected. Such information as is available is as follows.

The number of platelet transfusions carried out for patients specifically admitted to receive a blood platelet transfusion, excluding patients where this procedure was provided as part of a wider programme of treatment, is available from April 2009 to March 2010. This information is shown in the following table (verified information from April to December 2010 is not yet available). There is no information on the number of units of platelets transfused in each episode.

*Number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) where there was a main or secondary procedure or intervention of intravenous blood transfusion of platelets by Strategic Health Authority (SHA) from April 2009 to March 2010*

| *SHA of treatment* | *Number of FCEs* |
|---|---|
| North East | 1,345 |
| North West | 3,646 |
| Yorkshire and The Humber | 2,314 |

*Number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) where there was a main or secondary procedure or intervention of intravenous blood transfusion of platelets by Strategic Health Authority (SHA) from April 2009 to March 2010*

| *SHA of treatment* | *Number of FCEs* |
|---|---|
| East Midlands | 1,309 |
| West Midlands | 3,311 |
| East of England | 3,113 |
| London | 2,758 |
| South East Coast | 2,027 |
| South Central | 1,819 |
| South West | 2,731 |
| England Total | 24,373 |

*Source:*
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care. Data represent activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

Also known is the number of units of platelets NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) issued to hospitals in England and North Wales by each NHSBT stock holding unit region. This is not the same as a SHA region, as the data are not held in that format. The information is shown in the following table.

*Platelet Issues from NHSBT in 2010*

| *Region* | *NHSBT Stock holding unit* | *Total issues* |
|---|---|---|
| London and South East | Tooting | 37,364 |
| London and South East | Colindale | 28,469 |
| London and South East | Brentwood | 21,307 |
| London and South East | Cambridge | 10,611 |
| Midlands and South West | Birmingham | 26,013 |
| Midlands and South West | Southampton | 12,334 |
| Midlands and South West | Filton | 10,668 |
| Midlands and South West | Oxford | 9,384 |
| Midlands and South West | Plymouth | 3,758 |
| North | Sheffield | 19,802 |
| North | Leeds | 15,929 |
| North | Manchester | 15,196 |
| North | Liverpool | 12,871 |
| North | Newcastle | 11,189 |
| North | Lancaster | 5,217 |
| Total NHSBT | | 240,112 |

*Notes:*
1. Date of extraction: 8 March 2010.
2. Data are shown as adult equivalent units and include neonatal, paediatric and adult units.
3. Data show units issued by NHSBT between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2010.
*Source:*
NHSBT Demand Planning Group database

### Blood Transfusions: Viruses

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the NHS takes to assess the risk of patient infection by virus or bacteria in blood platelet transfusion; and if he will make a statement. [45432]

**Anne Milton:** The National Health Service Blood and Transplant/Health Protection Agency joint surveillance programme monitors transfusion transmitted infections in blood and tissue donors and transfusion recipients, with the aim of protecting patient safety and public health. There have been three recorded viral transmissions from platelet transfusions since 1996, when the Serious Hazards of Transfusion scheme was established, and none since 2005.

Bacterial contamination of platelet components is a serious, potentially life threatening, hazard of transfusion and the most common transfusion transmitted infection. Since 2002, a number of measures have been introduced to minimise this risk, including arm-cleansing to reduce contamination from the blood donor's skin at the time of donation and diversion of the first 20-30 millilitres of the donation. In addition, screening of donated platelets for evidence of bacterial infection should be in place in England and North Wales by April 2011.

In addition to these steps, any suspected or confirmed serious adverse reactions arising from the transfusion of blood or blood components (including viral or bacterial infection from blood platelets) must be reported to the haemovigilance unit of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency.

### Blood: Donors

**Glyn Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse was of blood collection from donation to usage in each of the last five years. [45959]

**Anne Milton:** NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) is a special health authority and is responsible for the provision of a reliable, efficient supply of blood, organs, tissues and stem cells to the national health service.

The following figures are the cost of providing blood components (red cells, platelets and plasma) including support service functions from donation to the point of delivery to hospitals. As well as the number of blood units collected and the price of a unit of blood in each of the years requested, also included is the agreed blood price for 2010-11 and 2011-12.

*Total expenditure for 2005-10 including number of blood units collected and the price of a unit of blood to hospitals*

| | *Total cost (£ million)* | *Whole blood collection* | *Price (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 310 | 2,039,000 | 131.80 |
| 2006-07 | 297 | 1,971,000 | 130.52 |
| 2007-08 | 309 | 1,927,000 | 133.99 |
| 2008-09 | 338 | 1,974,000 | 139.72 |
| 2009-10 | 346 | 1,982,000 | 133.19 |
| 2010-11 | [1]— | [1]— | 124.21 |
| 2011-12 | [1]— | [1]— | 124.85 |

[1] Figures not yet available.
*Source:*
NHSBT, as at 10 March 2011.

Primarily the reduction in 2006-07 related to negotiated reductions in the cost of consumable items.

The rise in 2007-08 was largely related to spend on one-off requirements such as blood safety initiatives and new equipment, as well as specific transformational projects—this was also a factor in the increases seen on 2008-09 and 2009-10 and reflects a multi-year programme of change projects designed to deliver longer term efficiency and effectiveness.

Through a sustained programme of transformation (to be continued over the next three years) NHSBT have reduced the price hospitals are charged for blood (red cells) from £140 in 2008-09 to less than £125 today. As a result the blood price in 2014 would be lower than the price in 2005-06.

### Departmental Procurement

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many procurement projects with a monetary value greater than *(a)* £10 million, *(b)* £50 million and *(c)* £100 million (i) his Department and (ii) each non-departmental public body and agency for which he is responsible was engaged upon in the latest period for which figures are available. [45565]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The following table shows data for the Department and for the NHS Commercial Medicines Unit for the period 1 April 2010 to date:

| *Award value* | *Type of agreement* | *Awarding organisation* | *Number awarded 1 April 2010 to date* |
|---|---|---|---|
| £10-£50 million | Contract | Department of Health | 4 |
| £50-£100 million | Contract | Department of Health | 1 |
| £100 million+ | Contract | Department of Health | 0 |

Within non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) and agencies, one contract was awarded by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency of value between £10 million and £50 million in the same period. No other NDPB or agency contracts were awarded.

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which procurement projects engaged upon by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental public body and agency for which he is responsible had a designated senior responsible owner in the latest period for which figures are available; and on what date each officer was appointed in each such case. [45566]

**Mr Simon Burns:** This information is not held centrally. The role of senior responsible owner (SRO) is to ensure that a project or programme of change meets its objectives and delivers the planned benefits. It is the Department's policy that an SRO will be designated for every major project in the Department and the non-departmental public bodies, and for smaller projects as appropriate.

### Diabetes

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are in place under *(a)* the Quality and Outcomes Framework and *(b)* National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical standards to address the psychological well-being of diabetics. [45616]

**Paul Burstow:** There are no measures in place under the Quality and Outcomes Framework, however, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has published guidance on management of both type 1 and type 2 diabetes. Clinical guidelines (CG) 15 "Diagnosis and management of type 1 diabetes in children, young people and adults" and CG87 "the management of Type 2 diabetes", both refer to timely psychological support.

NHS Diabetes has worked with Diabetes UK to produce recommendations on "Emotional and psychological care for people with diabetes". This guidance sets out the appropriate emotional and psychological care interventions for each facet of diabetes care. NHS Diabetes has also produced a Commissioning Care guide to support commissioners in commissioning these services.

NHS Diabetes, with contributions from Diabetes UK and other stakeholders have published an exemplar patient journey to support the national service framework (NSF) for children, young people and maternity services. This sets out information on a care pathway for a child with type 1 diabetes and includes references to provision of emotional and psychological support.

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the reason is for the time taken for diabetics in Brighton and Hove to receive annual retinotherapy screening; and what steps his Department is taking to ensure timely delivery of this service. [45617]

**Paul Burstow:** The Department is providing support to primary care trusts (PCTs) that are not yet offering screening to 100% of people with diabetes to help them reach this standard.

We are advised that NHS Brighton and Hove PCTs activity levels for diabetic retinopathy screening services have increased over recent years. In 2010-11, the PCTs diabetic retinopathy screening has not been able to meet the increasing demand and a backlog of patients being invited for screening has developed. The reasons for this are a reduced screening service capacity in 2010-11 because of a number of difficulties including problems around recruitment and staff taking unplanned leave.

South East Coast strategic health authority is monitoring this closely and has worked with the PCT to develop and agree a recovery plan to improve access to diabetic retinopathy screening. We are advised that the PCT will be writing to the hon. Gentleman in the next few days to share its recovery plan with him.

### Doctors: Working Hours

**Dr Poulter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress he has made in implementing the recommendations of the review of the Working Time Directive undertaken by Medical Education England in respect of encouraging junior doctors to participate in leadership and management training. [45988]

**Anne Milton:** The focus of the review undertaken by Professor Sir John Temple at the request of Medical Education England was the impact of training the future medical workforce with reduced hours available for learning. In this respect the aspect of encouraging junior doctors to participate in management and leadership training is only indirectly referred to. For example, by using more simulation in training, doctors will be able to develop skills around teamwork, leadership and management.

Medical Education England has identified leadership as a unifying theme across its professional advisory boards, and this will help ensure that it is included in training throughout the professions.

Medical Education England has developed an action plan to implement the recommendations of the Temple report known as "Better Training, Better Care", which will implement changes in clinical practices resulting in better supervision of trainees and increased consultant presence on the wards. This will encourage clinical leadership both in training and the delivery of care.

### Medicines: Prices

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what responsibilities Monitor will have in the setting of prices for medicines under his Department's plans for NHS reform. [45388]

**Mr Simon Burns:** We are currently consulting on our plans for a new value-based system for the pricing of medicines. Our proposals do not envisage a role for Monitor in the setting of medicines' prices.

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether medicines will be included in his proposed national tariff; and if he will make a statement. [45434]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The costs of most medicines used by hospitals during an episode of care are included in the Payment by Results national tariff. There are some drugs, however, that are reimbursed outside of the tariff. These are typically specialist drugs used in a relatively small number of centres rather than evenly spread across all providers.

The Department publishes a list of excluded drugs each year alongside the national tariff. Information for 2010-11 can be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_112284

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to maintain mandatory funding direction for medicines approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; and if he will make a statement. [45437]

**Mr Simon Burns:** We are consulting on our plans for a value-based system of medicines pricing in "A new value-based approach to the pricing of branded medicines" and this exercise closes on 17 March 2011. A copy of the consultation document has already been placed in the Library.

Until we are assured that the improvements we want to see in access to medicines are realised, we will continue to ensure that the national health service in England funds drugs that have been positively appraised by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). Provision is made in the Health and Social Care Bill to replicate the effect of the funding direction that currently applies to NICE-appraised drugs.

### Epilepsy: Brighton

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 660W, on epilepsy: Brighton, what assessment his Department has made of progress towards implementation of the National Service Framework for long-term conditions; when he plans to publish the mid-term review of the framework; and if he will make a statement. [45614]

**Paul Burstow:** We have made no assessment of the progress being made towards implementation of the National Service Framework for long-term conditions (NSF). No mid-term review of the Framework has been undertaken.

It is the responsibility of local health bodies to implement the NSF within the 10 year timescale from publication.

### Food: Labelling

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the future sale and labelling of food products containing genetically modified organisms. [45217]

**Anne Milton:** The Government believe that regulatory decisions on the sale of food products derived from genetically modified (GM) organisms should be based on a robust, case-by-case assessment of the potential impact on human health and the environment, taking full account of the scientific evidence. Consumers should be able to make an informed choice about whether to buy GM foods, through clear labelling rules.

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 17 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 923W, on animal products: clones, what his policy is on the future sale and labelling of products containing food from the offspring of cloned animals. [45232]

**Anne Milton:** The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has sought the views of interested parties on changing its interpretation of the novel foods regulation in respect of food obtained from the descendants of cloned cattle and pigs. The FSA is currently reviewing the responses it received and will announce its final position shortly.

### General Practitioners

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of primary care-led commissioning. [45366]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Impact Assessment that was published alongside the Health and Social Care Bill in January outlines how giving general practitioners (GPs) freedom to design services around patients will deliver benefits in terms of improved services that deliver better outcomes, improved patient experience, and more efficient management of national health service resources.

GPs, in partnership with other local health care professionals such as community nurses and pharmacists, are best placed to understand the health needs of local populations and how to design services that provide more effective, joined-up and preventive care.

The Impact Assessment has been placed in the Library.

## Hay Fever

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department *(a)* has issued and *(b)* plans to issue to (i) GPs and (ii) hospitals on the treatment of patients suffering with hay fever; and if he will make a statement. [45598]

**Paul Burstow:** Guidance to general practitioners is available from "Clinical Knowledge Summaries", a collection of guidelines maintained by NHS Evidence and available on their website at:

http://www.cks.nhs.uk/allergic_rhinitis

More detailed clinical guidelines on the treatment of patients suffering with hay fever are available from the British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology (January 2008) and from an international group (the "ARIA" guidelines, revised June 2010). The Department has no plans to issue guidance in this area.

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice his Department issues to those with hay fever; how much his Department spent on provision of such advice in the latest period for which figures are available; what mechanisms his Department uses to disseminate such advice to members of the public; and if he will make a statement. [45643]

**Paul Burstow:** Information and advice for people with hay fever is available from "NHS Choices" and from other popular sources, including a patient information leaflet published by the organisation Patient UK and available on their website:

www.patient.co.uk

The cost to public funds of preparing and updating the advice in "NHS Choices" cannot be separately identified.

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* males and *(b)* females with hay fever in each age group in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [45657]

**Paul Burstow:** The Department has made no such estimates. Seasonal allergic rhinitis is thought to affect about 10% of the United Kingdom population although the true prevalence may be higher. An analysis of the available epidemiological information, published with the Department's review of services for allergy in July 2006, estimated that the rates of general practitioner (GP) consultation for males and females by age group in 2004 were as in the following table. These figures will however understate the number of people suffering from hay fever, since many people with this condition do not consult a doctor.

*Proportion of patients consulting a GP for allergic rhinitis at some point during 2004 (rates per 10,000)*

| | *Age standardised rate (95% CI)* | *All ages* | *<1* | *1-4* | *5-14* | *15-24* | *25-44* | *45-64* | *65-74* | *75+* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Male | 152 (147-158) | 152 | 5 | 112 | 308 | 241 | 143 | 86 | 84 | 77 |
| Female | 171 (165-177) | 173 | 0 | 73 | 224 | 305 | 214 | 121 | 89 | 70 |

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent *(a)* discussions he has had with and *(b)* representations he has received from the British Medical Association on the treatment of patients suffering with hay fever; and if he will make a statement. [46599]

**Paul Burstow:** There have been no such representations or discussions.

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each (i) age group and (ii) health authority area were prescribed medication for the relief of hay fever in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [45658]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Information on the number, age and sex of patients prescribed a medicine and the indication for which a medicine was prescribed, is not collected centrally. The numbers of prescription items for medicines that can be used in the treatment of hay fever prescribed in England and dispensed in the community in the United Kingdom by strategic health authority (SHA) are shown in the following tables.

Antihistamines (British National Formulary (BNF) paragraph 3.4.1) are the main treatment for hay fever but topical nasal steroids (BNF paragraph 12.2.1) and other anti- inflammatory preparations for eye problems (BNF paragraph 11.4.2) are also used. It is not possible to know with certainty whether an item was prescribed to treat hay fever and all products included in these figures have indications other than the treatment of hay fever as follows.

*Prescription items for antihistamines prescribed in England and dispensed in the community in the UK, by SHA, July 2006-10*

*Thousand*

| *SHA* | *July-December 2006*[1] | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 377.3 | 849.4 | 904.4 | 973.9 | 1,037.5 |
| East of England | 475.8 | 1,047.7 | 1,103.3 | 1,186.9 | 1,250.2 |
| London | 553.6 | 1,322.9 | 1,375.3 | 1,489.8 | 1,569.7 |
| North East | 236.3 | 504.7 | 538.9 | 578.0 | 615.3 |
| North West | 651.2 | 1,386.8 | 1,453.3 | 1,537.8 | 1,614.2 |
| South Central | 292.1 | 661.1 | 683.0 | 722.4 | 751.3 |
| South East Coast | 304.8 | 674.6 | 703.7 | 745.6 | 783.2 |

*Prescription items for antihistamines prescribed in England and dispensed in the community in the UK, by SHA, July 2006-10*

*Thousand*

| *SHA* | *July-December 2006*[1] | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| South West | 371.5 | 822.7 | 868.6 | 920.6 | 971.8 |
| West Midlands | 444.7 | 991.7 | 1,037.1 | 1,107.0 | 1,165.2 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 483.4 | 1,036.4 | 1,086.6 | 1,168.7 | 1,234.5 |
| Unidentified prescribing[2] | 5.4 | 5.7 | 10.1 | 6.2 | 13.3 |
| Total[3, 4] | 9,088.6 | 9,303.6 | 9,764.3 | 10,436.9 | 11,006.2 |

*Prescription items for topical nasal steroids prescribed in England and dispensed in the community in the UK, by SHA, July 2006-10*

*Thousand*

| *SHA* | *July-December 2006*[1] | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 204.5 | 463.4 | 500.1 | 528.2 | 559.1 |
| East of England | 264.1 | 591.4 | 631.7 | 664.3 | 700.2 |
| London | 260.2 | 634.6 | 673.3 | 716.7 | 751.3 |
| North East | 109.3 | 237.3 | 254.2 | 266.3 | 281.6 |
| North West | 314.9 | 696.8 | 738.4 | 786.2 | 824.7 |
| South Central | 177.6 | 400.8 | 424.7 | 443.1 | 464.0 |
| South East Coast | 178.7 | 400.0 | 419.0 | 438.2 | 457.4 |
| South West | 225.8 | 505.0 | 536.1 | 560.7 | 589.3 |
| West Midlands | 232.6 | 527.7 | 564.0 | 598.6 | 633.1 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 221.2 | 488.9 | 524.3 | 558.6 | 587.2 |
| Unidentified prescribing[2] | 0.9 | 1.9 | 3.9 | 2.0 | 4.2 |
| Total[3, 4] | 4,759.7 | 4,947.8 | 5,269.7 | 5,563.0 | 5,852.1 |

*Prescription items for other anti-inflammatory preparations for eye problems prescribed in England and dispensed in the community in the UK, by SHA, July 2006-10*

*Thousand*

| *SHA* | *July-December 2006*[1] | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 51.1 | 132.9 | 144.3 | 149.2 | 148.7 |
| East of England | 62.9 | 160.4 | 169.7 | 174.2 | 171.3 |
| London | 107.7 | 301.6 | 325.8 | 340.4 | 341.2 |
| North East | 28.0 | 62.8 | 67.1 | 69.6 | 69.9 |
| North West | 82.5 | 196.5 | 208.2 | 214.9 | 209.4 |
| South Central | 39.1 | 105.2 | 111.6 | 114.1 | 113.1 |
| South East Coast | 38.8 | 98.7 | 104.5 | 107.2 | 104.8 |
| South West | 47.0 | 122.3 | 129.7 | 133.1 | 130.2 |
| West Midlands | 68.6 | 174.0 | 187.4 | 194.4 | 194.0 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 59.7 | 144.5 | 154.5 | 163.2 | 159.8 |
| Unidentified prescribing[2] | 0.5 | 0.8 | 1.8 | 1.0 | 2.0 |
| Total[3, 4] | 1,531.3 | 1,499.7 | 1,604.8 | 1,661.1 | 1,644.4 |

[1] SHAs were reorganised in July 2006, comparable data are not available for January-June 2006
[2] 'Unidentified prescribing' is prescribing which cannot be attributed to an SHA
[3] Figures may not sum due to rounding
[4] England total for 2006 relates to full year January-December dispensing
*Source:*
Prescribing Analysis and Cost Tool (PACT) system

## Heart Diseases: Children

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to announce his favoured reconfiguration option for children's heart surgery units; and what processes will be undertaken prior to making a decision. [45252]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The 'Safe and Sustainable' review of children's heart services in England is being conducted by the NHS Specialised Commissioning Team on behalf of the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts. The committee has published four options for reconfiguration.

These options have been arrived at by a thorough and comprehensive process, including extensive engagement with clinicians, patients and the public, and those are currently out to public consultation until 1 July 2011. The public consultation will include a number of public consultation events planned across England and Wales as well as focused events with relevant professional associations. The outcome of consultation will be considered by the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts in the autumn of 2011.

Information is available at:

www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/safe_sustainable/public-consultation-2011

## HIV Infection: Screening

**Mike Freer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to increase early diagnosis of HIV. [45239]

**Anne Milton:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Pudsey (Stuart Andrew) on 27 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 462W.

### Hospitals: Food

**Mr Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the NHS will be subject to Government buying standards for food; and if he will make a statement. [46129]

**Anne Milton:** The Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2011-12, published on 15 December 2010, makes it clear that national health service organisations are encouraged to consider the Government buying standards for food and catering when they are introduced at the end of March 2011.

### Hygiene: Publicity

**Valerie Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse was of his Department's Catch It, Kill It, Bin It respiratory hand hygiene campaign in each of the last five years. [46618]

**Anne Milton:** The costs of respiratory and hand hygiene campaigns are as follows:

2007-08: £688,453

2008-09: £1,877,181

2009-10: £3,710,044.

The expected costs for 2010-11 are £861,344. There was no campaign in 2006-07.

**Valerie Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what dates his Department's annual Catch It, Kill It, Bin It respiratory hand hygiene campaign was launched in each of the last five years. [46619]

**Anne Milton:** Respiratory and hand hygiene campaigns were launched on the following dates:

2007-08: November 2007

2008-09: November 2008

2009-10: April 2009

2010-11: January 2011.

The 2009-10 campaign started earlier in the year in readiness for an anticipated considerable increase in swine flu cases.

**Valerie Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he made in October 2010 of the merits of the proposed launch date for his Department's Catch It, Kill It, Bin It respiratory hand hygiene campaign in 2011. [46620]

**Anne Milton:** The 'Catch It, Bin It, Kill It' campaign is designed to encourage behaviours likely to slow the spread of flu.

Research from previous campaigns showed that advertising this message against a backdrop of an imminent health threat was more effective than maintaining a constant presence from a behaviour change perspective. Departmental officials therefore recommended, before October 2010, that the campaign should not run during 2010-11 unless the winter brought a severe flu season. The decision to run the campaign was taken during the Christmas holidays in response to data on rising rates of flu infection in England.

### Medical Equipment

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many appliance use reviews have been provided by the NHS since the introduction of such reviews. [45937]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The information held by the NHS Prescription Services records 11,162 appliance use reviews from April to December 2010.

### NHS Foundation Trusts

**Brandon Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of NHS foundation trusts held their board meetings in public in the last year for which figures are available; [45445]

(2) what proportion of NHS foundation trusts publish the *(a)* agendas, *(b)* background papers and *(c)* minutes of their board meetings; [45446]

(3) whether his Department provides guidance to NHS foundation trusts to encourage transparency and public engagement in the decision-making process at board level. [45447]

**Mr Simon Burns:** We are informed by the chair of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts) that Monitor does not hold or collect data on either the proportion of foundation trusts that hold board meetings in public; or on the proportion of foundation trusts which publish their board agendas, papers and minutes.

However, foundation trusts should follow a policy of openness and transparency in their proceedings and decision making. "The NHS Foundation Trust Code of Governance", produced by Monitor, sets out a framework for good governance and encourages openness from the board. The code also encourages foundation trusts to hold a meeting of their membership at least annually. Foundation trusts must either comply with the code, or explain clearly the reasons why they do not do so.

The Department is committed to making the national health service more transparent and accountable to patients and the public it serves. The measures we are taking in the Health and Social Care Bill would strengthen the accountability of foundation trusts and their directors to governors, the majority of whom are elected by the public.

### NHS: Private Patients

**Frank Dobson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what requirement there is for NHS hospitals to set charges for the treatment of private patients at a level which results in a surplus over the cost of the treatment. [45540]

**Mr Simon Burns:** There are no requirements on national health service hospitals about how they set charges for private patients. Foundation trusts, unlike NHS trusts, do have a constraint on the total income they can earn from private charges.

### NHS: Reorganisation

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the likely effects of structural reorganisation on *(a)* service delivery in the NHS, *(b)* the efficiency of the NHS and *(c)* quality improvement in the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [45405]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Government published a full impact assessment alongside the Health and Social Care Bill.

The effects of the proposed changes upon service delivery, efficiency and quality improvement are discussed within the impact assessment. The impact assessment is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_123583

A copy has already been placed in the Library.

### Obesity: Children

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of children in each age group who were classified as *(a)* overweight and *(b)* obese (i) in Southend, (ii) in each borough in (A) Essex and (B) Kent, (iii) in Greater London and (iv) nationally in each year since 2008. [45596]

**Anne Milton:** Information is not available in the format requested.

Information on the percentage of overweight and obese children in England is available in the 'Health Survey for England—2009 trend tables', Child trend tables, Table 4. Information is provided for children aged two to 15 in England for the years 1995 to 2009. This information is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/hse09trends

The proportion of children aged two to 15 recorded as overweight and obese by strategic health authority (SHA) is available for 2008 in Table 13.3 (p327) of the 'Health Survey for England—2008: Physical activity and fitness'. The information is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/hse08physicalactivity

Further information on the prevalence of overweight and obese children at a primary care trust (PCT) and local authority (LA) level is available through the National Child Measurement Programme. Information is available for children in reception (four to five years) and year six (10 to 11 years) for the years 2006-07 to 2009-10. Information showing prevalence of overweight and obese children in those two school years by LA, PCT, SHA and for England is available for each year from the following:

Tables 2 and 3 of the accompanying Excel file of the National Child Measurement Programme: England, 2009/10 school year report is available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/obesity/national-child-measurement-programme-england-2009-10-school-year

Tables 2 and 3 of the accompanying Excel file of the 'National Child Measurement Programme: England, 2008/09 school year' report is available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/obesity/national-child-measurement-programme-england-2008-09-school-year

Tables 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the accompanying Excel file of 'National Child Measurement Programme: results from the 2007/08 school year, headline results' report is available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/obesity/national-child-measurement-programme-results-from-the-school-year-2007-08

All these publications have already been placed in the Library.

### Obesity: Economic Cost

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an estimate of the cost to the economy of illness, economic inactivity and premature death associated with obesity since August 2010; what discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had on that matter since August 2010; and if he will make a statement. [45597]

**Anne Milton:** The estimated cost of overweight and obesity to the economy and to the national health service was set out in the report by Foresight, "Tackling Obesities: Future Choices—Modelling Future Trends in Obesity and the Impact on Health" (2007). This report is available from the following link:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.bis.gov.uk/foresight/our-work/projects/current-projects/tackling-obesities

Tackling obesity is a key public health challenge, and Ministers have had various discussions on the matter, as have officials. A document on obesity, following on from the White Paper "Healthy Lives, Healthy People", will be published in spring 2011.

### Paediatrics: Incontinence

**John Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure consistency in the commissioning of paediatric continence services. [45456]

**Anne Milton:** The Department has published care pathways for children affected by incontinence, and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has produced dedicated good practice guidance on constipation and nocturnal enuresis in children and young people.

### Sex and Relationship Education

**Mr Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Education on sex and relationship education; and if he will make a statement. [46606]

**Anne Milton:** We have had discussions with the Minister of State for Children and Families, my hon. Friend the Member for Brent Central (Sarah Teather), at the Department for Education on a number of issues including education on relationships and sex.

Ministers of both Departments believe it is important that children and young people receive a high quality, age-appropriate programme of such education to enable them to make wise and informed choices in later life. Measures to improve the quality of delivery of relationships and sex education in schools will be considered in the context of the internal review of Personal, Social, Health and Economic education announced by the Department for Education in 'The Importance of Teaching: The Schools White Paper 2010'. The document has already been placed in the Library.

### Teenage Pregnancy: Family Planning

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effect on rates of teenage pregnancy of the use of birth control. [45426]

**Anne Milton:** The rate of teenage conceptions has been falling in recent years. In 2009 the rate was 38.2 per 1,000 girls aged 15 to 17, representing a 30 year low.

A clinical guideline, 'Long-acting reversible contraception: the effective and appropriate use of long-acting reversible contraception', published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, found that by raising the profile of different methods of contraception particularly long-acting reversible contraception and increasing contraceptive choice, the number of unintended pregnancies would fall.

Health care professionals should have regard to the latest evidence based guidelines when considering effectiveness and which method will be best for an individual patient.

### Tissue Viability Nurses

**John Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many tissue viability nurses were working in each primary care trust or predecessor body in each year since 2000. [45458]

**Anne Milton:** The information requested is not collected by the Department.

### Tissue Viability Sores: Infections

**John Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of treatment of secondary infections caused by *(a)* tissue viability sores and *(b)* incontinence in the latest period in which figures are available. [45457]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The information is not available because the Department does not collect the cost to the national health service of treating individual diagnoses.

### Tobacco: EU Law

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an assessment of the adequacy of the evidential basis of the RAND Europe Study, Assessing the Impacts of Revising the Tobacco Products Directive. [46082]

**Anne Milton:** The RAND Europe Study was prepared for the European Commission (EC) to support the development of an impact assessment for the possible revision of the Tobacco Products Directive.

While the Government have not commented on the RAND Europe Study, I understand that many interested parties in the United Kingdom have sent their comments directly to the EC. The Department and other interested parties responded to the public consultation on the possible revision of the directive ran by the EC over the period 24 September to 17 December 2010. The EC is currently considering these submissions.

### Urology: Nurses

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS stoma care nursing posts were funded through industry support in each of the last 10 years; and what estimate he has made of the value to the NHS of this support. [45938]

**Anne Milton:** The information requested is not collected by the Department.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Affordable Housing

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to encourage local authorities to increase the provision of family-sized affordable homes. [45367]

**Grant Shapps:** In setting out the framework for the Affordable Homes Programme, the Government have made clear that the programme must take account of local priorities, which in some areas will include the provision of family-sized homes. We will seek confirmation of local authority support for new supply proposals when schemes are identified or indicative proposals become firm.

The new homes bonus will also encourage local authorities to meet the housing need in their areas, including the housing need of families, by matching the council tax for the following six years. Family homes will tend to be in a higher council tax band than smaller houses or flats. In addition, every affordable home built will receive an additional premium of £350 per year, up to around 36% more than for an equivalent market home.

As outlined in my answer to the hon. Member on 2 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 483W, our removal of national minimum density targets now gives local authorities the flexibility to set density ranges that suit the local needs in their areas—particularly for family homes.

### Departmental Food

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if he will make it his policy to place a duty on local authorities that prohibits the purchase of seafood which is included on the Marine Conservation Society List of fish to avoid; [45486]

(2) if he will make it his policy to require local authorities to purchase seafood that complies with sustainability standards as indicated either by *(a)* inclusion on the Marine Conservation Society list of fish to eat, *(b)* certification by the Marine Stewardship Council or *(c)* the terms of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. [45499]

**Robert Neill:** DCLG fully supports the Government's commitment to sourcing more sustainable food. However, in accordance with the decentralisation and localism agendas, we do not believe that the Government should place a further duty on local authorities in this respect as my Department is seeking to reduce the cumulative burden of legal duties imposed on local government.

### Departmental Furniture

**Andrew Griffiths:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much Government offices for the regions spent on office chairs in the last 24 months for which figures are available; and what the *(a)* make and model and *(b)* cost of each type of chair was. [43842]

**Greg Clark:** Information currently available on the purchase of seating within the Government offices for the regions in the financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11 is as follows:

| *Description* | *Item cost (£)* | *Number purchased* | *Total (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Financial year 2009-10* | | | |
| Ara chair with tilt limiter and coat hanger | 266.17 | 190 | 50,572.30 |
| Stacking arm chair—static | 117.00 | 98 | 11,466.00 |
| Stacking arm chair—on castors | 147.00 | 10 | 1,470.00 |
| Spring stool with leather seat pad | 205.00 | 24 | 4,920.00 |
| Joy cashier chair | 149.00 | 1 | 149.00 |
| Cusp tub chair | 231.00 | 21 | 4,851.00 |
| Trannon single lounge chair | 247.00 | 4 | 988.00 |
| Trannon 3-seat sofa | 879.00 | 2 | 1,758.00 |
| Opera wide chair | 1,028.10 | 1 | 1,028.10 |
| Oasis tub chairs | 556.40 | 18 | 10,015.20 |
| Oasis sofa | 725.40 | 2 | 1,450.80 |
| Various chairs required for reasonable adjustments | — | 8 | 4,067.00 |
| Financial year total | — | 379 | 92,735.40 |
| *Financial year 2010-11* | | | |
| Various chairs required for reasonable adjustments | — | 4 | 3,198.25 |
| Financial year total | — | 4 | 3,198.25 |
| Grand total | — | — | 95,933.65 |

The chair purchased in 2010-11 costing £1,072 was a highly specialised chair required for a member of staff with special needs. The Government's intention to close the Government offices for the regions was announced in principle on 22 July 2010 with the final decision announced as part of the spending review on 20 October 2010.

### Departmental Legal Costs

**Alison Seabeck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department paid for *(a)* external legal advice and *(b)* consultants in respect of the Cala Homes legal action in the last six months. [46318]

**Greg Clark:** In respect of the Cala Homes legal actions over the past six months:

*(a)* The final legal costs for the Cala Homes case have not yet been determined as the legal challenge is ongoing and will be heard in May.

*(b)* No consultants were appointed.

**Alison Seabeck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which external legal advisers his Government engaged in respect of the Cala Homes legal action. [46319]

**Greg Clark:** Mr James Eadie QC and Mr James Maurici acted on behalf of the Government in Cala Home's first legal challenge and Mr James Maurici and Mr Tim Mould QC on the second legal challenge by Cala Homes.

### Fire Services: Finance

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the percentage change in his Department's grant to each precepting fire and rescue authority is between 2010-11 and 2011-12. [46018]

**Robert Neill:** Percentage changes cannot currently be calculated as the total amount of Fire Revenue Grant for 2011-12 is not yet set. We are currently consulting on the future of fire and rescue control services and this will determine the total amount of Fire Revenue Grant.

### Food: Procurement

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on placing local authorities under a commitment to source food that meets British or equivalent standards of production subject to no overall increase in costs. [43304]

**Robert Neill:** DCLG fully support the Government's commitment to sourcing more sustainable and nutritious food. Central Government can help promote best practice in local government; however, individual procurement decisions by councils will be a matter for local determination.

### Housing: Overcrowding

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 17 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 890W, on housing: overcrowding (1) if he will make it his policy to collect data on the number of households who approached each local authority for homelessness assistance on the grounds that overcrowding made it unreasonable for them to continue to occupy their property; and if he will collect data on the number of such households for which the main homelessness duty was accepted; [45541]

(2) if he will make it his policy to collect data on the local authorities which award reasonable preference to overcrowded households in their allocations policy where overcrowding is based on the definition of overcrowding set out in the Housing Act 1985. [45542]

**Andrew Stunell:** The Department for Communities and Local Government is not proposing to collect this information. We are seeking to reduce the burden of data reporting to central Government as outlined in my Department's press notice of 17 December 2010.

As part of our proposed reforms of social housing, we will give local authorities greater flexibility to decide how best to meet housing need in their area and improve housing outcomes.

We have maintained homelessness grant at this year's level, investing £400 million over the next four years, and we have made a further £190 million available to local authorities to assist households affected by welfare reform.

### Local Government: Referendums

**Mr Raab:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his legislative proposals to allow petitions for local referendums are intended to allow for a referendum in *(a)* individual boroughs and *(b)* individual borough wards. [45459]

**Robert Neill** *[holding answer 10 March 2011]*: Our commitment in the coalition agreement is to give residents the power to instigate local referendums, and we have accordingly made provision in the Localism Bill allowing electors to petition for referendums within individual wards, or across an area which is one or more local government areas, or comprises a number of wards within one such area.

### Planning

**Mr Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government by what date he expects his proposals for reform of the rules in respect of contributions to planning decisions by local councillors to take effect. [45889]

**Robert Neill:** Provisions in the Localism Bill, currently before Parliament, to allow councillors to freely discuss important issues such as planning matters with their constituents, and to give their opinion on such issues without this being cited as evidence of having a closed mind on the subject, will come into force two months after the Bill's enactment.

### Public Expenditure

**Andrew Griffiths:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the job title is of each civil servant employed by the Government offices for the regions who had all or part of their *(a)* living and *(b)* accommodation costs met from the public purse in the latest period for which figures are available. [43868]

**Greg Clark:** I assume that the hon. Member is asking about costs covered by those in full-time accommodation away from their home such as detached duty.

As at the end of January 2011, 10 Government offices for the regions staff were in receipt of detached duty payments at the following grades:

| | *Grade* | *Number* |
|---|---|---|
| UK Trade and Investment Team | Administrative Officer | 1 |
| UK Trade and Investment Team | Executive Officer | 3 |
| Government Office Closure Team | Executive Officer | 1 |
| UK Trade and Investment Team | Higher Executive Officer | 4 |
| Government Office Closure Team | Higher Executive Officer | 1 |
| Government Office Closure Team | Grade 7 | 2 |
| Government Office Director | Grade 3 | 1 |

One member of staff detailed above has since left the Government offices.

**Andrew Griffiths:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the job title is of each civil servant employed by the Audit Commission who had all or part of their *(a)* living and *(b)* accommodation costs met from the public purse in the latest period for which figures are available. [43869]

**Robert Neill:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct. However I also refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 106-107W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Cannock Chase (Mr Burley), detailing the benefits, including hotel costs, for the chief executive.

*Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated March 2011:*

"Parliamentary Question: what the job title is of each civil servant employed by the Audit Commission who had all or part of their (a) living and (b) accommodation costs met by the public purse in the latest period for which figures are available."

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

Audit Commission staff are not civil servants.

In the last 12 months, the Commission has contributed to the living and/or accommodation costs of two members of staff, as follows:

an Audit Manager who moved from Carlisle to Solihull at a relocation cost of £2,600; and

an Audit Manager seconded from Northern to Central Region for a period of six weeks at a relocation cost of £780.64. This secondment ended at the end of March 2010.

These individuals were transferred to new posts and required to relocate, one on a permanent and one on a temporary basis.

### Public Sector: Pay

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons teaching assistants who earn less than £21,000 a year will not receive the guaranteed public sector worker pay increase of £250 in 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [45443]

**Robert Neill:** The Government have no role in determining annual pay awards in local authorities. These are for the employers and unions to negotiate.

### Shops: Empty Property

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many vacant shops there were in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and what estimate has been made of the likely number of vacant shops in each of the next two years. [44094]

**Robert Neill:** This information is not held centrally.

### Supermarkets

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what plans he has to modify Planning Policy Statement 4 to introduce a test to give local authorities greater powers to control the numbers of small supermarket outlets in town or city centres; [45618]

(2) if he will bring forward legislative proposals to give local authorities greater powers to control the numbers of small supermarket outlets in town or city centres. [45619]

**Robert Neill:** The Government are committed to supporting town centres which are at the heart of our communities and neighbourhoods. Current national planning policy within planning policy statement 4 "Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth" asks local planning authorities to plan for a strong retail mix so that the range and quality of retail on offer meets the requirements of the local area and, where appropriate, to take measures to protect and enhance the established character and diversity of their town centres.

Our "town centre first" policy will continue to be strongly expressed in the forthcoming national planning policy framework. Indeed, the Government's firm intention in reviewing the policy is to make it more accessible and clearer. We will publish the draft framework for consultation in the summer.

## TREASURY

### Bank: Loans

**Dr Poulter:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the merits of introducing a cap of 3% over the Bank of England base rate on the interest charged by banks on loans to profitable businesses. [45884]

**Mr Hoban:** Decisions about interest rates on loans are a matter for individual financial institutions to make on a commercial basis. The Government do not intervene in these decisions as a matter of course.

### Enterprise Investment Scheme

**Nicola Blackwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on the level of funding for small and medium-sized enterprises of raising the level of income tax relief in respect of the Enterprise Investment Scheme to *(a)* 30, *(b)* 40 and *(c)* 50 per cent. [46037]

**Mr Gauke:** Total investment in companies qualifying under the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) are published by HMRC as National Statistics at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/ent_invest_scheme/table8-1.pdf

Some but not all of this investment qualifies for income tax relief. No estimates have been made of the different effects on SME investment of changing the relief rate to these higher levels.

### Financial Institutions

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on foreclosures arising from decisions of *(a)* RBS Banking Group and *(b)* other financial institutions in the last 12 months. [45877]

**Mr Hoban:** UK Financial Investments (UKFI) manages the Government's investments in financial institutions on an arm's length and commercial basis.

Mortgage lenders' policies on foreclosures are a matter for the board and management of those financial institutions.

The Government are determined that repossession should always be a last resort. Financial Services Authority regulation requires that, wherever possible, lenders and borrowers should work together to manage any difficulties. Home owners also have protection in the courts through the Pre-Action Protocol, which makes it clear what is required of lenders.

### Gift Aid

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on charities and voluntary groups of the ending of transitional relief on gift aid. [45999]

**Justine Greening:** Gift aid transitional relief was introduced as a temporary measure to give charities time to prepare their financial plans in response to a lower rate of relief from gift aid. By April 2011, when the relief ends, charities will have had four years since the announcement of the 20% basic rate of income tax to prepare for the change. In 2009-10 charities benefited by £105 million from this relief and it is forecast that they will benefit by £120 million in 2010-11. The Government believe the £100 million transition fund announced in the spending review will better target support on charities most in need.

### Green Investment Bank

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what definition of a contingent liability of the Green Investment Bank his Department uses. [46061]

**Justine Greening:** For the purposes of departmental accounts, the accounting standard IAS 37 is applied in full. IAS 37 defines a contingent liability as:

> a possible obligation depending on whether some uncertain future event occurs; or
>
> a present obligation but payment is not probable or the amount cannot be measured reliably.

### Green Investment Bank: Scotland

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many meetings he has had with the Secretary of State for Scotland on the Green Investment Bank; and on which date each meeting took place. [46185]

**Justine Greening:** Treasury Ministers have frequent meetings with their ministerial colleagues as part of the process of policy development and delivery. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

### Industrial Diseases: Compensation

**Mr Anderson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether there has been any liaison between those responsible for administering the pleural plaques extra-statutory scheme and HM Revenue and Customs on the provision of employment history schedules by Special Section A for use by applicants to the scheme. [44369]

**Mr Gauke:** I can confirm that Ministry of Justice officials have been in contact with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) about requests for employment history schedules related to the pleural plaque compensation scheme.

### Internet: National Income

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the contribution to the UK economy of *(a)* Google, *(b)* Yahoo, *(c)* Facebook and *(d)* other major internet companies. [46136]

**Mr Gauke:** The Government recognise the importance of the digital and creative industries which includes companies such as Google, Yahoo and Facebook. In 2008, the digital and creative industries contributed £18 billion to the UK economy, equivalent to 1.4% of total GVA and employed approximately 353,000 workers.

The Government are keen to ensure that the UK remains a desirable location for businesses of all size and are taking action by prioritising investment in key infrastructure, demonstrated in the National Infrastructure Plan and heading for a simpler and more competitive tax system through the Corporate Tax Roadmap.

Alongside infrastructure investment and the corporate tax reforms, the Growth Review contributes to the Government's drive to remove the barriers to growth and improve British competitiveness. The Government want to create the right conditions for businesses to succeed and are tackling barriers in several sectors where there are opportunities for growth, including the digital and creative industries. The Growth Review will report back at Budget.

### Multilateral Information Exchange Agreement

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made on the multilateral information exchange agreement proposed in recent G20 communiqués. [45370]

**Mr Gauke:** A Protocol opening the Council of Europe-OECD multilateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters to a potentially world-wide membership is expected to come into force on 1 June following ratification by existing members. It is anticipated that a number of new members, which may include developing countries, will subsequently join the convention.

### National Insurance Contributions

**Oliver Colvile:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the *(a)* take up and *(b)* operation of the regional employers' national insurance contributions holiday for new businesses since its inception. [35759]

**Mr Gauke** *[holding answer 24 January 2011]:* We intend to publish details of the take-up of NI contributions holiday around the Budget later this month.

**Matthew Hancock:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will estimate the number of people employed by businesses eligible to receive relief for national insurance contributions for new businesses in each *(a)* local authority, *(b)* parliamentary constituency and *(c)* region; [39168]

(2) if he will estimate the number of businesses eligible to receive relief for national insurance contributions for new businesses in each *(a)* local authority, *(b)* parliamentary constituency and *(c)* region. [39169]

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many applications to the national insurance holiday scheme have been refused since June 2010; [40990]

(2) how many businesses have applied for the national insurance holiday in the *(a)* retail, *(b)* manufacturing and *(c)* service sector; [40992]

(3) how many businesses have applied for the national insurance holiday in each month since June 2010. [40993]

**Stephen Lloyd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many companies have taken up the regional employers national insurance contribution holiday for new businesses since June 2010. [39151]

**Mr Gauke:** We intend to publish details of the take-up of NI contributions holiday around the Budget later this month.

**Ed Balls:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many businesses applied for the National Insurance holiday for new small businesses in each eligible region in January 2011; [40252]

(2) how many business have applied for the National Insurance holiday for new small businesses in each eligible *(a)* region, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* constituency to date; [40253]

(3) what steps he has taken to raise the level of awareness of the National Insurance holiday for new small businesses in eligible regions. [40254]

**Mr Gauke** *[holding answer 11 February 2011]:* We intend to publish details of the take-up of NI contributions holiday around the Budget later this month.

### Public Finance

**Mr Frank Field:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of interest payments arising from the national debt in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [46617]

**Justine Greening:** Central Government gross debt interest payments for 2010-11 and 2011-12 can be found in Table 4.14 of the Office for Budget Responsibility's Economic and Fiscal Outlook, November 2010 (page 106).

It is available online at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/econ-fiscal-outlook.html

The OBR will publish an updated assessment of the public finances including debt interest payments at the Budget on 23 March 2011.

### Small Businesses: VAT

**Glyn Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effect on small businesses of the increase in the basic rate of value added tax. [45961]

**Mr Gauke:** I refer the hon. member to my answer of 10 January 2011, *Official Report,* column 217W.

### Smuggling: Fuels

**Mr Donaldson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the level of smuggled fuel detected by HM Revenue and Customs officers in Northern Ireland in each quarter in each of the last five years. [46605]

**Justine Greening:** The amount of illicit fuel seized in Northern Ireland over the last five years is as shown in the following table. HMRC do not hold these figures broken down by quarter.

| | *Fuel (million litres)* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 1.08 |
| 2006-07 | 0.84 |
| 2007-08 | 0.82 |
| 2008-09 | 1.09 |
| 2009-10 | 1.4 |

### Taxation

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the likely effectiveness of proposals to be tabled at the United Nations Economic and Social Council intended to strengthen its Committee of Tax Experts; and if he will make a statement. [45369]

**Mr Gauke:** The Government welcome the Secretary-General's advance report, which provides a balanced assessment of the different options for strengthening the committee.

The UK's priority is to maintain effective and representative arrangements for international cooperation in tax matters that respect member states' sovereignty and avoid duplication with the work of other international organisations.

The Government consider that the best means of enhancing the effectiveness of the committee would be to ensure that the prioritisation of the work of the committee fully represents its members' interests, and consider any practical changes that might improve the committee's work and its ability to involve the widest range of participants.

We have also made clear that the UK could not at this time support a recommendation to upgrade the committee to an intergovernmental body.

The full UK response to the request of the UN Economic and Social Council Secretariat for views on the strengthening of institutional arrangements to promote international cooperation in tax matters, including the Committee of Experts on international cooperation in tax matters, can be found here:

http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/tax/2011SGReport/RepliesMS.htm

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions has he had with the OECD Informal Task Force on Tax and Development on progress on its commitments on tax and development; and if he will make a statement. [45371]

**Mr Gauke:** The OECD informal Task Force on Tax and Development has been considering a range of tax issues of relevance to developing countries since its inaugural plenary meeting in April 2010. The task force will be reporting to the G20 on the most effective ways of supporting capacity building in the tax administrations of developing countries.

### VAT: Further Education

**Damian Hinds:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the amount of unrecoverable value added tax paid by further education colleges and sixth form colleges in England in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [45579]

(2) how many and what proportion of further education colleges in England are registered for value added tax. [45640]

**Mr Gauke:** Information is not available to assess accurately the amount of VAT paid by further education colleges.

It is not possible to determine the number of further education colleges which are currently registered for value added tax (VAT) as the industry sectors used against the VAT return do not separate out further education from other types of education.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer question 40993, on national insurance, tabled on 10 February 2011 for answer on 14 February 2011. [46311]

**Mr Gauke:** I have replied to the right hon. Member's question.

## TRANSPORT

### Arriva Trains: Deutsche Bahn

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will carry out an assessment of the effects on competition in the railways industry of the acquisition of Arriva Trains by Deutsche Bahn. [45254]

**Mrs Villiers:** Assessment of the effects of corporate acquisitions and mergers in the rail industry is a matter for the Office of Rail Regulation, which has concurrent competition authority powers with the Office of Fair Trading.

### Aviation: Security

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has any plans he has to introduce a crew personnel advanced screening system (CrewPASS); and if he will make a statement. [42060]

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has any plans to introduce a crew personnel advanced screening system (CrewPASS); and if he will make a statement. [43934]

**Mrs Villiers:** There are no plans to introduce a separate crew personnel screening system at UK airports along the lines of the CrewPASS system being trialled on a limited basis on US domestic flights.

Aviation security is governed by the "host state" principle and it is for each country to put in place the security measures it deems necessary to meet the threat. I have no standing to comment on the measures in place in other countries.

**Steve Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* evaluated on the threat to airport and airline security from air crew. [43766]

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the threat to airport and airline security from air crew. [43935]

**Mrs Villiers:** I refer the hon. Members to my answer given to the hon. Member for Eastbourne (Stephen Lloyd) of 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 831W.

**Steve Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has plans to bring forward proposals to enable airports to determine their own security procedures for air crew. [43767]

**Mrs Villiers:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer given to the hon. Member for Eastbourne (Stephen Lloyd) of 2 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 460W.

**Mr Marcus Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the threat to airport and airline security from air crew. [45578]

**Mrs Villiers:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 16 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 831W, given to the hon. Member for Eastbourne (Stephen Lloyd).

### Biofuels

**Christopher Pincher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take in response to the results of the study by E4Tech commissioned by his Department on differences between biofuel types; and what assessment he has made of the types of biofuel which are most environmentally sustainable. [45265]

**Norman Baker:** In 2009 the Department for Transport commissioned E4Tech to study the Indirect Land Use Change (ILUC) impacts of the five biofuels expected to form the main supply of biofuel in the UK in the next 10 years: palm, soy and oilseed rape biodiesel, and sugarcane and wheat bioethanol.

The report from E4Tech sheds light on the complexity of calculating ILUC emissions, particularly where there are uncertainties due to both limitations in data and knowledge of how future markets will develop.

The Government referenced the E4Tech work in its October 2010 response to the European Commission consultation on ILUC impacts of biofuels and bioliquids. In this response the UK Government called on the Commission to work with member states to develop detailed options to address ILUC which can be subjected to full impact assessments.

The E4Tech research is also being used in ongoing research to assess the potential for regional level actions to mitigate ILUC.

Further information on this research and the UK response to the Commission is available on the Department's website.

**Christopher Pincher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions officials in his Department have had with HM Treasury on the effect on captive fleets of the 20p tax differential for biodiesel made from used cooking oil. [45453]

**Norman Baker:** Biofuels from used cooking oil are currently supported through two mechanisms: the 20p tax differential which was introduced on 1 April 2010 and is set to run until April 2012, and the renewable transport fuel obligation (RFTO).

Department for Transport officials have had no recent discussions on the 20p tax derogation for biofuels from used cooking oil.

We are currently consulting on proposals to amend the RTFO. Our proposed amendment will provide additional support to biofuels from waste, including used cooking oil. Currently one renewable transport certificate is awarded per litre of biofuel; we propose to amend the RTFO such that biofuels from waste are awarded two renewable transport fuel certificates per litre.

### Cycling

**Shabana Mahmood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has for the future of *(a)* Bikeability and *(b)* Cycling England. [43107]

**Norman Baker:** We have already announced that Bikeability—cycle proficiency for the 21st century—will be supported for the remainder of this Parliament, thereby giving confidence in our commitment to this valuable programme.

We have also announced grants totalling £11 million to local authorities and School Sport Partnerships to provide up to 275,000 Bikeability cycle training places for children in 2011-12.

As announced in the Public Bodies Review, Cycling England is to be abolished when its current remit expires on 31 March 2011 and its functions will be taken in-house. Cycling England was reviewed as part of the coalition Government's commitment to radically increase the transparency and accountability of public services and reinvigorate the public's trust in democracy. The Government's approach was based on the presumption that state activity, where needed, is best undertaken by bodies that are democratically accountable at either national or local level.

We also believe that the Government's move towards localism, and particularly in this regard the nature of the new Local Sustainable Transport Fund, for which all local transport authorities outside London are eligible to bid and for which we expect bids for cycling related projects, means that the rationale for a body like Cycling England has weakened. I would however like to acknowledge the good work the organisation has done during its existence.

### Departmental Conditions of Employment

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of his Department's adherence to each of the principles of good employment practice set out in the Cabinet Office publication Principles of Good Employment Practice. [42621]

**Norman Baker:** The Principles of Good Employment Practice were published in December 2010 with the expectation that the principles will be relevant in circumstances where Government's employees transfer to the contractor's work force. Since December 2010 that situation has not arisen in Department for Transport (DFT).

If, in future, any services currently delivered by DFT employees transfer to the contractor's workforce we will ensure that suppliers are aware of the principles and encourage their application.

### Departmental Leaseback Arrangements

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assets his Department has sold and leased back over the last 12 months; what the sale price was of each asset so sold; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of leasing back each such asset over the period of the lease. [45088]

**Norman Baker:** The Department for Transport and its seven executive agencies have not sold and leased back any assets over the last 12 months.

### Electoral Reform Services

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the monetary value was of contracts his Department placed with Electoral Reform Services Ltd. in each year since 2005. [44225]

**Norman Baker:** The Department for Transport has not placed any contracts with Electoral Reform Services since 2005.

### Electric Vehicles

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what projections he has made of the likely levels of usage of electric cars in the next 20 years. [44777]

**Norman Baker:** Specific projections for 2031 are not yet available; the Department for Transport is currently working towards ambitions for the 4th Carbon Budget period (2023-27).

It is not known which vehicle technology will dominate the market in the long-term. We are clear that uptake of ultra-low emission vehicles (such as electric, hybrid and fuel cell vehicles), in addition to efficiency improvements in conventional vehicles, is required to meet our long term carbon reduction targets. EU targets for average new car emissions are currently 130g/km by 2015, and 95g/km by 2020.

Transport Analysis guidance, WebTAG, provides guidance on how to conduct appraisal of transport schemes and forecasts on key uptake assumptions for vehicle propulsion types. WebTAG is being developed to ensure that ultra-low emission vehicles are appropriately represented.

### High Speed 1

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason his Department did not sell High Speed 1 to the highest bidder; and if he will make a statement. [39030]

**Mr Philip Hammond** *[holding answer 8 February 2011]*: The sale of High Speed 1 was highly competitive and the leading bids were all within a very narrow margin in terms of price. The award was made to the consortium comprising Borealis and Ontario Teachers Pension plan as the bid which best satisfied all the assessment criteria, which offered the fewest modifications to the vendor's proposed terms of sale and which represented a high level of certainty of early completion.

### Large Goods Vehicles: Tolls

**John Woodcock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what timetable he has set for the process of consultation and communication on the introduction of a road user charging scheme for heavy goods vehicles. [46008]

**Mike Penning:** The timetable is set out in section C4.3 of the Department's business plan 2011-15, available on the Department's website and are available in the Libraries of the House.

### London Midland: Fares

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has received representations on the practice of London Midland in displaying a list of individuals who have been prosecuted for seeking to avoid the payment of a rail fare. [45411]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Department for Transport has not received any representations relating to London Midland publishing the names of individuals who have been prosecuted for fare evasion.

I understand that London Midland has changed its policy in naming individuals and is currently exploring alternatives, such as displaying the number of people found not to have a ticket on a certain day and station.

### Elected Mayors

**Ian Mearns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for consultation on the transfer of powers from local transport authorities to proposed elected mayors under the provisions of the Localism Bill; and if he will make a statement. [45255]

**Robert Neill:** I have been asked to reply.

There is a strong case for elected mayors in our largest cities who have the powers needed for them to promote the success and prosperity of these cities. We intend to look to the cities themselves, their businesses, and those who contribute to the city's life to see just what powers might be needed.

### Local and Regional Rail Services

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 17-18WS, on local and regional rail services, how many local rail schemes were planned to be undertaken before April 2015. [45259]

**Mrs Villiers:** We are aware of 11 services currently funded by local authorities and passenger transport executives (PTEs) which could be eligible for funding by the Department for Transport from April 2015. We are not expecting any additional services to be introduced before April 2012 and any others introduced after then will not be affected by the change in date to April 2015.

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 17-18WS, on local and regional rail services, how many scheduled local rail schemes will be delayed as a result of changes to funding arrangements. [45260]

**Mrs Villiers:** It is not expected that the introduction of any new services will be delayed by the change in funding arrangements.

### Railways: Standards

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions rail services between Norwich and London Liverpool Street were more than *(a)* 15 minutes, *(b)* 30 minutes and *(c)* one hour late in arriving at their final destination in each year since 2007. [45834]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Department for Transport does not hold performance data for National Express East Anglia at the level of detail requested.

Network Rail is responsible for performance data for the rail industry. My hon. Friend may wish to contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for such information:

David Higgins
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG.

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department holds on the complaints received by each railway operator concerning its services on the Norwich to London railway line in each of the last 10 years. [45835]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Department for Transport does not receive this route specific information. The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) publishes complaints handling data for the UK rail industry including some specific information for National Express East Anglia (NXEA) in National Rail Trends (NRT). This is available on the ORR website at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk

### Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation

**Christopher Pincher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what timetable he has set for his proposed reform of the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation; how long the consultation is to last; and by when he expects to have implemented the results of the review. [45448]

**Norman Baker:** Amendments to the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations (RTFO) Order 2007 have been considered to implement both the transport elements of the renewable energy directive (RED) and aspects of the closely related fuel quality directive (FQD).

The Department has published consultation documents on amendments to the RTFO. In line with the code of practice on consultations these will last 12 weeks. The documents are available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/

As part of the consultation exercise we have set out a timetable for implementation. The Department for Transport will analyse the responses received to the consultations carefully. We aim to lay a draft of the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations (Amendment) Order before Parliament in autumn 2011.

### Roads: Trans-European Networks

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of roads are identified as *(a)* part of Trans European Networks and *(b)* proposed to be designated as part of Trans European Networks in each (i) local authority area, (ii) county and (iii) region. [45164]

**Mrs Villiers:** At present it is not possible to provide information to the level of detail requested. A map showing the extent of the United Kingdom's road network can be found using the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/infrastructure/networks_eu/road_en.htm

and selecting road maps by member states. We are in discussion with the Commission as part of the review of the TEN-T network with the aim of aligning the TEN-T road network more closely with the Strategic National Corridors for the UK.

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding he expects to be available for road improvements from EU and other sources in relation to Trans European Networks. [45165]

**Mrs Villiers:** European funding for transport schemes is not allocated by transport mode and so it is not possible to say what proportion of the budget is available for road improvements in an average year. In the current financial perspective (2007-13) the UK has been awarded over €95 million in funding from the TEN-T programme for road projects.

In a number of cases, the TEN-T network mirrors our domestic priorities for transport. For example, 11 of the 14 forthcoming major road schemes announced in October are on the Trans-European Network. These schemes have been provisionally allocated significant funding from the UK taxpayer.

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether improvements to the A12 and A120 could be eligible for funding through programmes relating to Trans European Networks. [45166]

**Mrs Villiers:** Some parts of the A12 and the A120 are part of the UK road element of the Trans-European Network—Transport (TEN-T) and would be eligible for TEN-T funding.

However, TEN-T funding is only available to reimburse projects that have already confirmed full funding from another source.

## Sea Rescue

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times coastguard services have been involved in operations relating to North Sea *(a)* offshore oil and gas installations and *(b)* fishing vessels in each of the last five years. [44999]

**Mike Penning:** The following information has been taken from the coastguard incident management system and is as accurate as the codes used to describe the characteristics of an incident. There may be a regional disparity in the use of these codes over that past four years, due to ongoing industrial action short of strike.

To provide more detailed analysis of these figures for operations relating to offshore oil and gas installations would incur disproportionate costs.

*Incident numbers for Shetland, Aberdeen and Forth combined (Northern Basin)*

| | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All commercial fishing vessels types recorded. | 120 | 83 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Coastguard incidents categorised as 2Rig on fire", "Gas release or well kickback" and "Man overboard" which indicate the MRCC has been notified, but does not necessarily indicate a response was initiated. | 82 | 72 | 43 | 61 | 50 |
| Coastguard incidents categorised as "Rig at muster" indicating an unscheduled alarm which has been notified to the MRCC. | 191 | 231 | 233 | 310 | 314 |

*Incident numbers for Humber and Yarmouth combined (Southern Basin)*

| | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All commercial fishing vessels types recorded. | 42 | 15 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Coastguard incidents categorised as "Rig on fire", "Gas release or well kickback" and "Man overboard" which indicate the MRCC has been notified, but does not necessarily indicate a response was initiated. | 9 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| Coastguard incidents categorised as "Rig at muster" indicating an unscheduled alarm which has been notified to the MRCC. | 105 | 137 | 124 | 121 | 129 |

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been allocated to the Coastguard Marine Rescue Co-ordinating centre at *(a)* Clyde, *(b)* Forth, *(c)* Aberdeen, *(d)* Shetland and *(e)* Stornoway in each of the last five years. [45000]

**Mike Penning:** The Maritime and Coastguard Agency does not allocate its budget on an individual Maritime, Rescue and Co-ordination Centre basis. This reflects the fact that the Agency operates nationally, with only some costs attributable to individual centres by virtue of where they are domiciled, and others being part of the national infrastructure and thus not separately identifiable.

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what use the Coastguard has made of emergency towing vessels in operations in the last five years. [45002]

**Mike Penning:** Between 2006 and 2010, the coastguard used the four emergency towing vessels (ETVs) on a total of 182 occasions. Of this, 134 were incidents where ETVs were sent to stand-by vessels, but where they were not required to render towage services. This would typically be where a vessel had broken down in open sea and was drifting until repairs had been completed, or where a vessel's owners had arranged for a tug belonging to another towage company to attend on scene to assist their vessel.

The coastguard also dispatched ETVs on 48 occasions to assist disabled vessels in circumstances where a tow was connected. In all cases the ensuing towage services were the subject of a commercial towage agreement or the performance of an act of salvage by the tug operator.

The ETVs carry out further supplementary work. The Western Isles ETV undertakes passive escort duties in the Minches, and one ETV undertakes hydrographic survey work during the summer season.

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions coastguard services have worked in conjunction with search and rescue helicopter services in Scotland in the last five years. [45003]

**Mike Penning:** Figures for the number of times the coastguard services have worked in conjunction with search and rescue (SAR) helicopter services in Scotland for each of the last five years are set out in the following table.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2010 | [1]395 |
| 2009 | [1]392 |
| 2008 | [1]352 |
| 2007 | [1]492 |
| 2006 | 410 |

[1] The quality of information from 2007 onwards may be affected by industrial action short of a strike.

The above figures include information on the use of all air facilities available to HM Coastguard not just dedicated SAR aircraft. They also include information on secondary use of SAR aircraft for inter-hospital transfers, inland incidents where maritime SAR assets have been deployed through HM Coastguard, and exercises and training.

In 2007, the contract provider for HM Coastguard helicopter provision changed. Stornoway moved to the new contract provider in July 2007 and Sumburgh in October 2007. This change necessitated additional training requirements and this additional provision is included in the above figures. Without exercises, training and faults, the figures are as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2010 | [1]339 |
| 2009 | [1]347 |
| 2008 | [1]339 |
| 2007 | [1]422 |
| 2006 | 383 |

[1] The quality of information from 2007 onwards may be affected by industrial action short of a strike.

### Southeastern Railways: Franchises

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what levels of service the train operating company operating the Southeastern rail franchise is expected to meet to be considered for renewal of the franchise. [43444]

**Mrs Villiers:** The continuation criteria for the Southeastern franchise are set out in Schedule 18 of the National Rail franchise terms. A link to the NRFT can be found at the following address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/passenger/publicregister/current/lser/lsernational.pdf

### Third Sector

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department has taken to support the Big Society initiative. [42647]

**Norman Baker:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer given on 3 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 876-77W.

### West Coast Railway Line: Rolling Stock

**Mr Brady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the costs and benefits that would arise from the introduction of double-deck passenger trains on the West Coast Mainline. [45939]

**Mrs Villiers:** In 2007, the Department for Transport asked Network Rail to carry out preliminary work to assess the case for longer or double deck trains as a way of providing additional capacity on the rail network. Due to the infrastructure changes that would be required, the report concluded that lengthening trains is a more cost-effective solution.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Biomass

**Glyn Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the use of biomass in his Department's renewable energy strategy. [46028]

**Charles Hendry:** The UK Renewable Energy Action Plan, published last summer, shows we expect the use of biomass in the UK heat and power sector to deliver around 6,085 ktoe (kilotonnes of oil equivalent) of renewable energy generation per year by 2020. This equates to biomass heat and electricity contributing around 30% of the renewable energy needed to meet the UK's renewable energy target in 2020.

### Climate Change: Arctic

**Frank Dobson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment has been made of the level of Arctic ice melt in the summer of 2011 in comparison to the summer of 2010. [45365]

**Gregory Barker:** Forecasts of the late summer Arctic sea ice minimum can only be made a few months ahead, so will not be available until June at the earliest. In 2010 summer sea ice was the third lowest since satellite records began in 1979. So far in 2011 the sea ice extent has continued to be significantly lower than the 1979 to 2000 average.

## Electric and Magnetic Fields

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will amend the simplified route map in section 2.10 of the draft National Policy Statement on Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) to take into account recent research into neurodegenerative diseases of old age. [45517]

**Charles Hendry:** The simplified route map in section 2.10 of the draft National Policy Statement on Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) is a visual representation of the decision making process to which the Infrastructure Planning Commission and other interested parties can refer when implementing Government policy with regard to electric and magnetic fields associated with high voltage power lines and reflects the process outlined in the previous section. For these reasons, it would not be an appropriate place to take account of any new research on possible health effects.

## Departmental Contracts

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what contracts his Department has with *(a)* advertising, *(b)* opinion polling and *(c)* marketing agencies or companies; and what the (i) scope, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost is of each such contract. [45519]

**Gregory Barker:** DECC currently has eight projects with 'opinion polling' agencies, including qualitative and quantitive research, budgeted at a total of £995,650 (ex VAT).

Three of the projects have been designed to inform the development and rollout of Green Deal. Other contracts include projects to: benchmark energy use among householders; evaluate the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target; evaluate the Low Carbon Communities Challenge; inform DECC's stakeholder relationships; and shape the my2050 energy pathways game and schools' toolkit. Agencies include IPSOS Mori, GfK NOP, and Quadrangle. DECC has no contracts with advertising or marketing agencies.

Details of current contracts with research agencies are shown in the following table.

| *Agency* | *Type (e.g. Advertising, Opinion Polling/Research, Marketing)* | *Scope* | *Purpose* | *Budget (ex VAT) (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| GfK NOP | Research | Survey of members of the public | To inform the rollout of the Green Deal | 140,000 |
| IPSOS Mori | Research | Qualitative research with home owners (including vulnerable groups) and SMEs | To inform various features of the Green Deal | 81,940 |
| Quadrangle | Research | Qualitative research with domestic and non-domestic tenants and landlords | Identifying how best to engage the Private Rented Sector in the Green Deal and drive demand | 59,800 |
| IPSOS Mori | Research | Statistical analysis to create benchmarks | To create credible benchmarks for energy use among households | 68,000 |
| IPSOS Mori with CAG Consulting and BRE | Research | Policy evaluation of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) | To assess how the scheme is being delivered in practice, and examine take-up by householders | 135,000 |
| GfK NOP | Research | This is a two year contract covering years 2009-10 and 2010-11. Covers households in 22 Low Carbon Community Challenge regions and five control areas, plus a nationally representative sample | To evaluate the impact of the LCCC projects | 397,000 |
| IPSOS Mori | Research | Survey of 250 of DECC's stakeholders | To inform stakeholder relationships. | 24,750 |
| IPSOS Mori | Research | Deliberative fora including pilot dialogues, my2050 'game' feedback, and toolkit development | These dialogues will help to shape the online digital assets and schools toolkit | 89,160 |

## Departmental Manpower

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff are employed full-time by his Department to undertake work on or relating to *(a)* nuclear energy, *(b)* coal, including carbon capture and storage, *(c)* natural gas, including carbon capture and storage, *(d)* renewable gas, biomethane injection, *(e)* solar photovoltaic, *(f)* onshore wind, *(g)* offshore wind, *(h)* wave and tidal, *(i)* deep geothermal, *(j)* solar thermal, *(k)* heat pumps, *(l)* biomass boilers and combined heat and power, *(m)* hydroelectric power, *(n)* biomass power and *(o)* anaerobic digestion; and if he will make a statement. [46355]

**Gregory Barker:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change has teams that focus on particular groups of technologies. As of 1 February 2011, the number of staff working in the three low carbon offices were as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Office of Nuclear Development | 52 |
| Office for Renewable Energy Development | 77 |
| Office for Carbon Capture and Storage | 30 |

It is not possible to give more detailed numbers of staff for specific technologies within these broad areas as staff work across different policy areas within these teams.

### Departmental Procurement

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many procurement projects with a monetary value greater than *(a)* £10 million, *(b)* £50 million and *(c)* £100 million (i) his Department and (ii) each non-departmental public body for which he is responsible was engaged upon in the latest period for which figures are available. [45557]

**Gregory Barker:** The information is as follows:

(i) The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has tendered or awarded the following contracts since April 2009:

*(a) Projects with a monetary value of greater than £10 million:*

One contract has been let for legal support, advice and claims handling associated with the former British Coal Corporation.

*(b) Projects with a monetary value between £50 and £100 million:*

No contracts have been awarded and no projects are being tendered.

*(c) Projects with a monetary value of £100 million or more:*

One project is under tender for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS).

(ii) The Department's non-departmental public bodies are engaged in the following contracts:

*(a) Projects with a monetary value of greater than £10 million:*

One contract has been let by the Coal Authority for a new corporate information system.

A further project is currently being tendered by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority for facilities management services.

*(b) Projects with a monetary value between £50 and £100 million:*

No contracts have been awarded and no projects are being tendered.

*(c) Projects with a monetary value of £100 million or more:*

One project is currently being tendered by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to appoint a Parent Body Organisation for the Dounreay Site Licence Company.

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which procurement projects engaged upon by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental public body for which he is responsible had a designated senior responsible owner in the latest period for which figures are available; and on what date each officer was appointed in each such case. [45558]

**Gregory Barker:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him today to question 45557: a £10 million threshold has been applied to this answer. To investigate smaller projects would incur disproportionate costs.

*(a) Projects engaged upon by the Department of Energy and climate Change (DECC):*

Contract for legal support, advice and claims handling associated with the former British Coal Corporation: A senior responsible officer (SRO) has been in place since August 2009.

Project for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS): SRO in place since May 2007.

*(b) Projects engaged upon by the Department's non departmental public bodies:*

Contract for a new corporate information system for the Coal Authority: SRO in place since January 2008.

Project by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority for facilities management services: This project is currently being tendered. No SRO is in place at the moment.

Project under tender by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to appoint a parent body organisation for the Dounreay Site Licence Company: SRO in place since July 2009.

### Departmental Rail Travel

**Mr Godsiff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many and what proportion of civil servants in his Department are entitled to travel first class by rail within the UK. [47072]

**Gregory Barker:** No Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) staff are automatically entitled to travel by first class rail on business within the UK. All staff are expected to use standard class unless there is a clear need for travelling by first for example:

Where first class is cheaper than standard class

Where there are no standard class seats left on the train

Where there are no standard class facilities to accommodate disabled or other specials needs requirements

Any first class rail travel must be approved by the relevant deputy director.

### Departmental Scientists

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many and what proportion of senior civil servants employed directly by his Department hold degrees in a scientific discipline. [46308]

**Gregory Barker:** DECC does not hold this information centrally and to gather this would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of written questions tabled to him for answer on a named day did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer between 27 May 2010 and 9 March 2011. [46557]

**Gregory Barker:** During this period, 196 named day questions have been tabled to the Department. Of these, 152 (77%) were answered on the named day.

### Devolution: Northern Ireland

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his special advisers on climate change have met representatives of *(a)* the Northern Ireland Executive and *(b)* other organisations in Northern Ireland since their appointment. [46601]

**Gregory Barker:** No.

### Electric and Magnetic Fields

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will provide guidance to National Grid on the application of the 1959 Holford Rules to electricity networks infrastructure on overhead lines to ensure that where mitigation measures under these rules cannot be achieved the company is required to utilise other means of connection. [45500]

**Charles Hendry:** The Holford Rules are designed to help developers draw lines on the map when considering possible routes for overhead electricity lines in a way which is likely to have less, rather than more, adverse visual impact. They are not a basis for deciding whether a particular proposal is acceptable or not on landscape and visual grounds. The final decision will take account of all relevant factors, and therefore we do not believe that further guidance is needed.

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will discuss with National Grid the account taken by its consultation exercise on the revised approach to undergrounding cables of the results of the recent studies on the comparative costs of overhead lines, underground cables and sub-sea cable as means of connection of energy sources to the National Grid. [45501]

**Charles Hendry:** This consultation exercise is a commercial matter for National Grid. I understand that National Grid will consider all relevant studies, and envisages that the consultation will remain open for some time after the IET/KEMA study on the practicality, costs and impacts of undergrounding and subsea cabling as alternatives to overhead lines is published, so that findings can be taken into account.

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what planning and development control applies to the connection of electricity supply to the national grid via *(a)* overhead cables, *(b)* underground cables and *(c)* sub-sea cables; and if he will make a statement. [45502]

**Charles Hendry:** The Planning Act 2008 provides for applications for development consent in respect of nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIPs) to be examined and decided by the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC), and for the Government to set out policy on the consenting of such projects in National Policy Statements. In the case of electricity network infrastructure, NSIPs are defined as overhead electricity lines whose nominal voltage is expected to be 132 kV or above. The Government intend to finalise and formally approve the energy National Policy Statements in spring 2011.

Installation of underground cables is permitted development under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order (1995) as amended. In view of these permitted development rights there is generally no need for proposals for the underground cable elements of a project to be caught by the Planning Act regime, although (in England) it would be possible for the developer to include aspects of an underground scheme other than the cable itself (such as sealing end compounds) in a Planning Act application as associated development. If the installation of an underground cable would be likely to have a significant effect on a site protected by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, the developer would have to seek the approval of the local planning authority before proceeding to rely on general permitted development rights.

Applications for sub-sea cables are considered by the Marine Management Organisation under the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 (FEPA)—to be superseded in April this year by a new marine licensing regime under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. The Infrastructure Planning Commission in England can consent a sub-sea cable as associated development if it forms part of the infrastructure for an offshore generating station by granting a deemed FEPA Licence or marine licence under (respectively) section 149 or 149(A) of the Planning Act.

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what account he has taken in his revised policy on the generation of power of the methods of the connection for that power to the national grid. [45503]

**Charles Hendry:** Much of the new low carbon electricity generation infrastructure (including many renewable technologies and nuclear generation) required to support the delivery of the UK's climate change obligations and ensure energy security will need to be located in places where there is no existing transmission network infrastructure. Significant reinforcement of the electricity transmission network will therefore be required over the coming years to ensure this new generation can be connected, and the Government have taken this network expansion into account in the draft energy national policy statements. The impacts and costs of different connection methods, such as overhead lines and underground cables, will vary considerably from one project to another, and each project in England and Wales will therefore be assessed by the Infrastructure Planning Commission individually on the basis of its specific circumstances. The Government intend to finalise and formally approve the energy national policy statements in spring 2011.

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to amend the draft Overarching Energy National Policy Statement (EN-1) and the draft National Policy Statement (EN-5) on Electricity Networks Infrastructure to ensure that overhead electricity lines are not vulnerable to terrorist attack. [45505]

**Charles Hendry:** The Government have in place a resilience programme to reduce the vulnerability of important national assets, including energy assets, to disruption either from natural hazards or other threats, including acts of terrorism.

If the Government considered that there was an increased terrorist threat to power lines specifically, there is already scope within the national policy statement (EN-1) to address our concerns. Section 4.15 of EN-1 (as follows) incorporates the requirement for the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) and DECC to confirm to the Infrastructure Planning Commission that security issues have been given adequate consideration for any energy infrastructure where national security considerations have been identified. This requirement could apply to overhead lines as well as other energy infrastructure, so no changes to the NPS are necessary.

*Extract from EN-1*

*4.15 Security considerations*

4.15.1 National security considerations apply across all national infrastructure sectors including energy. DECC has lead responsibility for security of the energy sector. It works closely with Government security services including the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) to reduce the vulnerability of the most 'critical' infrastructure assets in the sector to terrorism and other national security threats. The Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS) is the security regulator for the UK's civil nuclear industry.

4.15.2 Government policy is to ensure that, where possible, proportionate protective security measures are designed into new infrastructure projects at an early stage in the project development. Where applications for development consent for infrastructure covered by this NPS relate to potentially 'critical' infrastructure, there may be national security considerations.

4.153 DECC will be notified at pre-application stage about every likely future application for energy NSIPs, so that any national security implications can be identified. Where national security implications have been identified, the applicant should consult with relevant security experts from CPNI, OCNS and DECC to ensure that physical, procedural and personnel security measures have been adequately considered in the design process and that adequate consideration has been given to the management of security risks. If CPNI, OCNS and/or DECC are satisfied that security issues have been adequately addressed in the project when the application is submitted to the IPC, it will provide confirmation of this to the IPC. The IPC should not need to give any further consideration to the details of the security measures in its examination.

4.15.4 The applicant should only include sufficient information in the application as is necessary to enable the IPC to examine the development consent issues and make a properly informed decision on the application.

4.15.5 In exceptional cases, where examination of an application would involve public disclosure of information about defence or national security which would not be in the national interest, the Secretary of State can intervene and examine a part or the whole of the application. In that case, the Secretary of State may appoint an examiner to consider evidence in closed session, and the Secretary of State would be the decision maker for the application.

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will amend the draft National Policy Statement on Electricity Networks Infrastructures (EN-5) in accordance with the recent International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection's guidelines for limiting exposure to time-varying electric and magnetic fields (1 Hz to 100 kHz) in respect of childhood leukaemia. [45513]

**Charles Hendry:** The Department of Health is responsible for the assessment of risks to human health from electric and magnetic fields (EMFs), and they in turn advise other Departments including DECC.

New guidance for 1 Hz to 100 kHz was published by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) in December 2010. However, Government policy remains that we apply the 1998 ICNIRP guidelines in terms of the 1999 European Union (EU) recommendation for public exposure levels to EMFs. If the EU decides to revise its recommendation to member states based on the new 2010 ICNIRP guidance, then at that time the Department of Health will consider how that affects UK policy. If this policy changes as a result of the recommendation we will then look to review EN-5 to ensure that it is still relevant.

### Environment Protection

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what policy outcomes to promote growth in environmentally friendly industries his Department *(a)* has developed and *(b)* plans to develop following the Green Breakfast meeting with ministerial colleagues hosted by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs on 8 March 2011; and if he will make a statement. [46055]

**Gregory Barker:** The Green Breakfast meeting is an informal working group, hosted by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. It considers practical issues related to the Government's commitment to deliver sustainable growth. Cabinet Committees remain the place for policy decisions to be made.

The Department is working closely with DEFRA and BIS on a 'Roadmap for a Green Economy' to be published in the spring. This will set out for a business audience the Coalition Government's policy framework for growing the green economy.

### Environment Protection: Job Creation

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what definition of the term green job his Department uses. [45155]

**Mr Prisk:** I have been asked to reply.

While there is no fixed definition of a green job, it should include jobs created, particularly in the low carbon, renewable and environmental goods and services sector, as well as jobs that change in line with sectors undergoing transformation through a greening of the economy. Data commissioned by BIS estimate that in 2008-09 the low carbon environmental goods and services sector in the UK employed around 910,000 people.

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what estimate he has made of the number of green jobs created since May 2010; [45156]

(2) what information his Department holds on the number of green jobs created since May 2010 in each *(a)* company and *(b)* region. [45157]

**Mr Prisk:** I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) does not hold data on the number of green jobs created since May 2010.

Data commissioned by BIS estimate that in 2008-09 the low carbon environmental goods and services sector in the UK was made up of 52,260 companies and employed 910,000 people. Employment estimates by region are:

| *Region* | *Employment* |
|---|---|
| Yorkshire and Humber | 67,688 |
| West Midlands | 74,069 |
| Wales | 40,838 |
| South West | 75,828 |
| South East | 116,913 |
| Scotland | 76,041 |
| North West | 89,671 |
| North East | 37,661 |
| Northern Ireland | 30,874 |
| London | 156,576 |
| East of England | 82,778 |
| East Midlands | 60,845 |

### Green Investment Bank: Scotland

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many meetings he has had with the Secretary of State for Scotland on the Green Investment Bank; and on which date each meeting took place. [46183]

**Gregory Barker:** The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), meets regularly with Cabinet colleagues, including the Secretary of State for Scotland, my right hon. Friend the Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore). The Green Investment Bank is one of many topics discussed at these meetings.

### Hydrogen: Nanotechnology

**Steve Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the potential effects of developments in hydrogen storage at ambient pressures and temperatures using nano-structures on *(a)* road vehicles, *(b)* ships, *(c)* aircraft, *(d)* offshore wind turbines and *(e)* portable devices; and if he will make a statement. [45350]

**Charles Hendry:** Hydrogen is one of a number of potential future, low carbon solutions in which the Government are interested.

The development of low cost hydrogen storage methods coupled with low cost methods of making clean or green hydrogen could make hydrogen an interesting proposition for a wide range of transport and energy applications.

We believe this is inspired by Cella Energy Ltd who recently won the Shell Springboard 2011 competition for innovation.

Their invention uses nanotechnology to store hydrogen in microbeads. They claim that when these beads are heated they produce energy which could fuel cars, lorries, ships or planes.

### Liquefied Natural Gas: Security

**Glyn Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the security of liquefied natural gas operations. [45960]

**Charles Hendry:** In 2010, provisional figures show that liquefied natural gas (LNG) accounted for 35% of UK gas imports, or around 16% of gross demand. The majority (around three quarters) of LNG imports came from Qatar, with the remainder largely sourced from Trinidad and Tobago, Algeria, and Norway.

DECC assesses that there is not currently a significant risk of disruption to LNG operations in the above countries, or to major shipping routes. LNG operations and shipping through the Suez canal have continued uninterrupted throughout the recent unrest in Egypt and Tunisia, and LNG infrastructure is well protected. The UK has low direct dependence for gas on countries in the middle east and north Africa (MENA) region, and any loss of LNG supplies from MENA countries could be replaced by alternate sources. This analysis is regularly reviewed.

In terms of the security and resilience of LNG operations in the UK, the Government have in place a resilience programme to reduce the vulnerability of important national assets, including energy assets, to disruption either from natural hazards or other threats, including acts of terrorism. Working with the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI), Dyfed-Powys and Kent police, as well as the operators of these facilities, we ensure our collective response remains proportionate to the risk.

The Government also have robust plans in place, together with energy companies, the police and other emergency services, to deal with an energy emergency in the UK.

### Nuclear Power

**Andrew Griffiths:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department holds records of the number of local authorities which operate nuclear-free zones. [46274]

**Charles Hendry:** The Department does not hold records of the number of local authorities which operate nuclear free zones.

### Solar Power

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will benchmark the UK's performance on the use of solar photovoltaics against other EU member states. [45788]

**Gregory Barker:** The UK is a member of the International Energy Agency Photovoltaic Power Systems (PVPS) programme, which includes other EU members states. The annual report includes information on PV developments in each of the 24 participating countries. The 2010 annual report is about to be released and further information is available on the PVPS website at:

http://www.iea-pvps.org/

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of the UK's renewable energy he expects to come from solar photovoltaics generation in *(a)* 2011, *(b)* 2015, *(c)* 2020, *(d)* 2025 and *(e)* 2030. [45791]

**Gregory Barker:** The proportion of renewable energy predicted to come from solar photovoltaics is given in the following table. The current feed-in tariff scheme provides support from 2010-20, therefore, the following table only provides figures out to 2020. The estimates are consistent with figures produced for the UK National Action Plan

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/renewable/ored/ukaction_plan/uk_action_plan.aspx

*Percentage renewable energy from solar photovoltaics*

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 2011 | <0.5 |
| 2015 | 1 |
| 2020 | 1 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 0.5%.
2. Projections for solar photovoltaics uptake are consistent with analysis undertaken for the final impact assessment for feed-in tariffs, see:
http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultation/elec_financial/elec_financial.aspx
for further information. Figures have not been provided beyond 2020 as estimates are not available on the same basis as the estimates for 2010-20.

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with their counterparts in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the (i) economic and (ii) employment opportunities in the solar photovoltaic sector; and if he will make a statement. [46354]

**Gregory Barker:** DECC and BIS Ministers have regular discussions on a range of issues which includes economic and employment opportunities in the solar photovoltaic sector.

### Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

**Christopher Pincher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will consider financial incentives for solar photovoltaics other than feed-in tariffs. [45427]

**Gregory Barker:** Solar Photovoltaics can already qualify for the feed-in tariff or for the renewables obligation. As a microgenerating technology, they also qualify for a lower rate of VAT on domestic installations. We have no current plans to introduce further financial incentives.

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what timetable he has set for the fast track review of the feed-in-tariff for solar photovoltaics. [45970]

**Gregory Barker:** We will be launching the fast-track consultation this month. The fast-track review is subject to consultation and parliamentary scrutiny as required by the Energy Act 2008. We intend to bring clarity and certainty to the market as soon as possible and envisage this process to be completed by summer recess.

### Vinyl Acetate

**Mr Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has made an assessment of the effect on the environment of *(a)* importing vinyl acetate produced from shale gas in the US and *(b)* using vinyl acetate made in Europe through other means; and if he will make a statement. [44566]

**Charles Hendry:** The Department has not made an assessment of the relative effect on the environment of importing vinyl acetate produced from shale gas in the US and using vinyl acetate made in Europe through other means.

### Wind Power: Feed-in Tariffs

**Julian Sturdy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has for the future of renewable energy feed-in tariffs for wind turbines. [44540]

**Charles Hendry:** The first comprehensive review of the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme is currently under way in which all aspects of the scheme will be considered including tariff levels and eligible technologies.

## ATTORNEY-GENERAL

### Departmental Manpower

**Catherine McKinnell:** To ask the Attorney-General how many staff the Attorney-General's Office expects to employ at the end of *(a)* March 2011 and *(b)* each subsequent financial year in the comprehensive spending review period. [46240]

**The Attorney-General:** The Attorney-General's Office currently employs 41 staff. There are no current plans to change this number during the comprehensive spending review period.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Attorney-General how much the Law Officers' Departments have spent on *(a)* salaries and *(b)* pension entitlements for special advisers in the financial year 2010-11 to date. [46587]

**The Solicitor-General:** Nothing.

### Departmental Procurement

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Attorney-General which procurement projects engaged upon by *(a)* the Law Officers' Departments and *(b)* the agency for which he is responsible had a designated senior responsible owner in the latest period for which figures are available; and on what date that officer was appointed in each such case. [45544]

**The Attorney-General:** During the financial year 2009-10, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) was engaged in two procurement projects that had a designated senior responsible owner (SRO). The first project was for the extension of the Department's existing private finance initiative (PFI) contract for information and communications technology (ICT) services. The second project was led by the CPS on behalf of a number of prosecuting agencies for the procurement of electronic presentation of evidence (EPE) services.

The senior responsible owner was appointed at the start of each project.

During the financial year 2010-11 to date, the CPS has been engaged in no further procurement projects for which a designated SRO was appointed.

The Treasury solicitors routinely appoint SRO's to be responsible for the delivery of major projects as part of its normal project governance arrangements. SRO's are appointed at the start of projects.

During the 2010-11 period, three projects were subject to routine reports to the Department's board, each project had a designated SRO:

1. Development of a case management system (SRO appointed in December 2007)

2. Renewal of the legal information online (LION) site for the Government Legal Service (SRO appointed in December 2009)

3. Development of a disaster recovery site for the Department (SRO appointed in August 2009), Project completed December 2010.

The remaining Law Officers' Departments have not engaged upon any major procurement projects requiring a designated SRO during the last two years.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Catherine McKinnell:** To ask the Attorney-General what the *(a)* resource and *(b)* capital budget of the Attorney-General's Office (i) is in 2010-11 and (ii) will be in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [46230]

**The Attorney-General:** The Attorney-General's Office resource and capital budgets are shown in the following table:

£

| | Resource | Capital |
|---|---|---|
| 2010-11 | 4,477,000 | 100,000 |
| 2011-12 | 4,500,000 | 100,000 |
| 2012-13 | 4,500,000 | 100,000 |
| 2013-14 | 4,500,000 | 100,000 |
| 2014-15 | 4,500,000 | 100,000 |

**Catherine McKinnell:** To ask the Attorney-General under what budget headings reductions in expenditure will be made by the Attorney-General's Office following the outcome of the comprehensive spending review; and by how much expenditure will be reduced under each heading. [46245]

**The Attorney-General:** The Attorney-General's Office reduced costs during 2010-11 in preparation for the comprehensive spending review.

The annual budget reductions achieved were a reduction of circa £895,000 in staff costs, a reduction of approximately £75,000 for ministerial cars and a reduction of approximately £300,000 in accommodation costs.

AGO will continue to identify efficiencies throughout the CSR period particularly taking up opportunities to renegotiate contracts to drive down cost and increase value for money.

### Departmental Redundancy

**Catherine McKinnell:** To ask the Attorney-General (1) how much funding the Attorney-General's Office has allocated to redundancy costs in each financial year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; [46225]

(2) how much funding the Attorney-General's Office has allocated to redundancy costs in 2010-11; [46244]

(3) how much the Attorney-General's Office has spent on redundancy costs in 2010-11 to date; [46242]

(4) how many staff the Attorney-General's Office has made redundant in 2010-11 to date; and from what roles staff have been made redundant; [46241]

(5) how many staff the Attorney-General's Office expects to make *(a)* voluntarily and *(b)* compulsorily redundant in each financial year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; and from what roles such staff are expected to be made redundant; [46228]

(6) how many staff the Attorney-General's Office expects to make *(a)* voluntarily and *(b)* compulsorily redundant in 2010-11; and from what roles such staff are expected to be made redundant. [46243]

**The Attorney-General:** The Attorney-General's Office have not made any staff redundant in 2010-11 and do not expect to make any staff redundant from 2011-12 to 2014-15. The Attorney-General's Office has not allocated any funding to redundancy costs in the period 2010 to 2015.

### Regulation

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Attorney-General what regulations the Law Officers' Departments introduced between 9 and 28 February 2011. [47055]

**The Solicitor-General:** None. The Law Officers' Departments seldom have any reason to introduce new regulations.

### DNA: Databases

**Valerie Vaz:** To ask the Attorney-General what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the potential effects on rape conviction rates of proposals to change the length of time for which DNA of suspects is retained. [46671]

**The Attorney-General:** There have been no such discussions. The Crown Prosecution Service prosecutes cases investigated by the police and applies the Code for Crown Prosecutors in making changing decisions.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Child Maintenance

**Graeme Morrice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many resident parents in Livingston constituency use the Child Support Agency and the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission to enforce child maintenance payment arrangements. [43204]

**Maria Miller:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many resident parents in Livingston constituency use the Child Support Agency and the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission to enforce child maintenance payment arrangements. [43204]

The number of live and assessed cases currently being handled by the Child Support Agency where the parent with care lives in Livingston parliamentary constituency is 2,700 in the quarter ending December 2010. This includes cases where the non-resident parent has a liability to pay child maintenance or ongoing child maintenance. The figure also includes cases where arrears of child maintenance have been requested from the non-resident parent, or the non-resident parent has been assessed as not owing child maintenance.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

### Council Tax Benefits

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he expects to place constraints on the *(a)* taper rate and *(b)* other features of the future council tax benefit scheme offered by local authorities. [46282]

**Robert Neill:** I have been asked to reply.

Promoting work incentives is at the heart of the programme of welfare reform. In developing their plans for a new system for local council tax rebate schemes, the Government have been clear that the changes should support the positive work incentives that will be introduced through the Government's plans on universal credit. A full consultation on the new system in England will be undertaken in due course.

### Departmental Billing

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in January and February 2011. [45079]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department for Work and Pensions became a signatory to the Prompt Payment Code in March 2009 and set a target to pay 90% of correct invoices within 10 days of receipt. This target applies to all invoices paid by the Department and its agencies which are covered by a single finance system. The target has been met consistently since the signing of the code.

The percentage of all supplier payments made within 10 days of receipt of an invoice for the requested months are:

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| January 2011 | 98 |
| February 2011 | 96 |

### Departmental Expenditure: Newspapers

**Mr McFadden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on newspapers and magazines since May 2010. [38535]

**Chris Grayling:** Information on the amount spent on newspapers and magazines for the nine months from May 2010 is as follows.

| *Period* | *Newspaper/magazine spend (£)* |
|---|---|
| May 2010 to January 2011 | 20,173.07 |

Information on the amount spent on newspapers and magazines for the nine months from May 2009 to January 2010 as a comparative figure is as follows.

| *Period* | *Newspaper/magazine spend (£)* |
|---|---|
| May 2009 to January 2010 | 29,712.54 |

This represents a 32% reduction in expenditure.

The Department is reviewing all expenditure with a view to driving out inefficiencies and delivering value for money for the taxpayer.

### Disability Living Allowance

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Loughborough of 16 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 809W, on disability living allowance, (1) which claimants of disability living allowance will be re-assessed for eligibility for the personal independence payment; [43327]

(2) what differences there will be between the assessment for the disability living allowance and the assessment for the personal independence payment; [43386]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the re-assessment of those transferring from disability living allowance to personal independence payment. [43387]

**Maria Miller:** Eligibility for disability living allowance is based on care and mobility needs. The current assessment for disability living allowance is subjective and inconsistent. We want to ensure support is targeted on those disabled people who are most impacted by their health condition or impairment. Personal independence payment will support disabled people to lead full, active and independent lives and the assessment will consider their ability to carry out a range of key day-to-day activities. We are developing the assessment with a group of independent specialists in health, social care and disability. It is still being developed and the detailed criteria will be set out in regulations.

From 2013-14 we will begin a managed programme to reassess the existing DLA working-age caseload and transfer people to personal independence payment. We want to use the experience of reassessing the working-age caseload to inform any future decisions on arrangements for children and people aged over 65.

The costs of implementing a new benefit will depend on the detail of how the benefit is delivered and the design of the new assessment. Costs will be refined as further detail on the reform is developed. The disability living allowance reform impact assessment, published on 16 February 2011, estimated approximate high level costs to be £675 million over five years (real terms, net present value). These include provision for making changes to the IT systems, training DWP staff, the administrative effort required to manage the transition of existing recipients to the new system and the cost of independent health care professionals undertaking the new assessment. As the new assessment for personal independence payment and the process for reassessing the existing DLA case load are still being developed, I am unable, at this stage, to provide a precise estimate for the cost of reassessment alone.

The disability living allowance reform impact assessment can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/dla-reform-wr2011-ia.pdf

### Employment Schemes

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to help people move from jobseekers' allowance into secure employment. [45368]

**Chris Grayling:** The Government are putting in place a much more flexible, personalised approach to helping people back into work, which begins with Jobcentre Plus. From April 2011 the support that Jobcentre Plus delivers to customers across all working age benefits (JSA, ESA and IS) is changing. Jobcentre Plus managers and advisers will have more flexibility to judge which interventions will help its customers, tailored to personal and local labour market needs. To support this Jobcentre Plus are introducing a suite of measures bringing together communities, the voluntary sector, business people and employers, to help get people back to work.

The Government are also implementing a new Work Programme from this summer, which will help a wide range of customers move into sustained employment. Work programme providers will not be required to deliver centrally specified support, which may be inappropriate for many customers, but instead will be given the freedom to innovate and develop personalised support. In return for this freedom, they will be paid on the basis of the results they achieve. We will offer providers higher rewards for supporting harder-to-help customers into employment, to ensure that it is worthwhile for providers to help all customer groups. We will also reward providers for keeping customers in employment, to help meet our aim for sustained employment outcomes.

Jobseeker's allowance customers will become eligible for the Work Programme from 12 months into their claim if they are aged 25 years or over, from nine months into their claim if they are aged 18 to 24, and from three months into their claim if they are disadvantaged in the labour market.

### Housing Benefit

**Kate Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what impact assessment he has carried out in respect of the proposed benefit cap of £26,000 per household. [36424]

**Chris Grayling:** The Spending Review 2010 announced that household benefit payments would be capped from 2013 at around £500 per week for couple and lone parent households and around £350 per week for single adult households. War widows, households which include a member who is in receipt of disability living allowance or constant attendance allowance, and working households claiming the working tax credit will be exempt from the cap.

Analysis of the impact of the household cap on total benefit income was published in the impact assessment which accompanied the introduction of Welfare Reform Bill.

If the benefit cap were applied in full we estimate that around 50,000 households will have their benefits reduced by the policy. Households whose benefit is reduced as a result of the cap on total benefit income will lose on average around £93 per week.

Those affected most will generally be households with large numbers of children living in high rent areas. The vast majority (around 90%) will have children. Roughly 35% will be couples. Around 60% will be single women, almost all of whom are likely to be lone parents.

We are looking at ways of easing the transition for families and providing assistance in hard cases.

**Kate Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the likely level of savings which will accrue as a result of the proposed cap on the level of household benefits. [36426]

**Chris Grayling:** The spending review 2010 announced that household benefit payments would be capped from 2013 at around £500 per week for couple and lone parent households and around £350 per week for single adult households. War widows, households which include a member who is in receipt of disability living allowance or constant attendance allowance, and working households claiming the working tax credit will be exempt from the cap.

If the benefit cap were applied in full, as described in the supporting documentation for the spending review 2010 the savings to the Exchequer are estimated to be £225 million in 2013-14 and £270 million in 2014-15.

We are looking at ways of easing the transition for families and providing assistance in hard cases.

**Kate Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made an assessment of the likely effects on *(a)* family structure and *(b)* levels of family breakdown in the geographical areas most affected by the proposed cap on the level of household benefits. [36428]

**Chris Grayling:** No assessment has been made of the likely effects on *(a)* family structure and *(b)* levels of family breakdown as a result of the household cap on total benefit income.

We are looking at ways of easing the transition for families and providing assistance in hard cases.

**Kate Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made an assessment of the likely effects of the proposed cap on the level of benefits on families of four children or more in black and minority ethnic communities. [36429]

**Maria Miller:** If the benefit cap were applied in full a large proportion of those affected by the benefit cap are likely to be large families, suggesting that households from cultural backgrounds with a high prevalence of large families will be affected.

Based on internal modelling using the Department for Work and Pension's Policy Simulation Model, we estimate that of the households that are likely to be affected by the cap approximately 30% of them will contain somebody who is from an ethnic minority.

Analysis of the impact of the household cap on total benefit income was published in the Impact Assessment which accompanied the introduction of Welfare Reform Bill. Analysis of the likely effects on ethnic minorities has been included in the equality impact assessment which was published on the Department for Work and Pension's website.

We are looking at ways of easing the transition for families and providing assistance in hard cases.

*Note:*

Percentages are rounded to the nearest 10%.

**Kate Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to provide support for households affected by the proposed benefits cap. [36432]

**Chris Grayling:** When someone in a household enters work and begins to receive working tax credit they will no longer be subject to the benefit cap.

We are putting in place the Work Programme, which will give unemployed people unprecedented levels of personal support to get them into the workplace and barriers to work will finally be broken down.

We will ensure that the full range of options for people facing a shortfall in their rent remain accessible, from renegotiating their rent levels through to applying to their local authority for assistance in obtaining alternative accommodation, and that people are encouraged to consider these options.

We are looking at ways of easing the transition for families and providing assistance in hard cases.

### Independent Living Fund

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the closure of the independent living fund on the ability of local authorities to respond to changes in demands for their services. [43511]

**Maria Miller:** The independent living fund is a discretionary trust and payments from the fund do not take precedence over the responsibility of the local authority to make an assessment of a user's needs. Local authorities have the statutory responsibility to provide social care support to their residents and as part of this responsibility they will need to consider the requirements of people who may otherwise have received an additional package from the independent living fund. However, although there was no requirement for the Department to undertake an assessment, it did discuss the changes to the independent living fund with disability organisations, local government representatives and colleagues in the Department of Health.

Findings from the planned independent living fund consultation will help inform future decisions around social care investment and distribution to ensure that people receive the care and support suitable for their needs.

### Household Income

**Kate Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the distribution of shared income between couples living in the same household; and if he will make a statement. [44823]

**Chris Grayling:** In line with international best practice, the methodology for the main analysis of the income distribution, the Households Below Average Income series, measures the living standards of an individual as determined by household income. This assumes that all members of a household benefit equally from the household's income, and will therefore appear at the same position in the income distribution.

Research has suggested that, particularly in low-income households, the above assumption with regard to income sharing within couples is not always valid as men sometimes benefit at the expense of women from shared household income.

The Government are aware of recent research which analyses the distribution of income within families. The extent of pooling of resources between partners in a couple, division of responsibility for different types of expenditure and how this affects welfare of dependents in the household have been investigated by external researchers.

Recent research that has been completed includes:

Written evidence has been submitted to the Work and Pensions committee regarding the White Paper on universal credit by Fran Bennett and Ruth Lister:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmselect/cmworpen/writev/whitepap/contents.htm

Research in relation to tax credits:

Hall & Pettigrew (2008) "Exploring the Key Influences on the Tax Credits Claimant Population" HMRC Research Report 49:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/report-49-final.pdf

In the United Kingdom in 2008-09, less than 0.5% of households contained more than one couple.

*Notes:*

1. The data on household composition is sourced from the Family Resources Survey, the data source for the Households Below Average Income series. The reference period for the survey is a single financial year.
2. A couple is defined as two adults, of same or different sex, who are married (spouse), or from January 2006 in a civil partnership (partner), or are assumed to be living together as such (cohabitee).

### Remploy: Voluntary Redundancy

**Chris Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assistance is available to explain the voluntary redundancy scheme to employees of Remploy with learning disabilities, who have been offered voluntary redundancy. [43436]

**Maria Miller:** Remploy has clear responsibilities towards their employers and have in place a guaranteed tailored support package for all employees including those with learning disabilities. This support includes internal and external advice and training available online, by telephone or face to face. This support includes:

easy-read information providing a step-by-step guide to the voluntary redundancy scheme and the support available;

one to one sessions with factory managers;

access to a free Employment Assistance programme, providing a range of advice on financial, legal and benefits issues;

information provided to nominated family or friends where the employee has requested this.

*Source:*

Remploy

## Social Security Benefits

**Kate Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether a couple with children working between 16 and 23 hours per week will have their benefit payments capped at £500 per week following the implementation of changes to working tax credit eligibility criteria proposed in the comprehensive spending review. [23033]

**Chris Grayling:** As the spending review announced, households which contain a member who is in receipt of working tax credit will be exempt from the cap. We are still considering the precise criteria for an equivalent exemption under universal credit.

In addition, war widows and households that contain a member who is in receipt of disability living allowance or constant attendance allowance will also be exempt from the benefit cap.

We are looking at ways of easing the transition for families and providing assistance in hard cases.

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which benefits he plans to include within his proposed cap on benefit entitlement; and which benefits will not be included within that cap. [45178]

**Chris Grayling:** We are introducing a cap on the total amount of benefit that working-age people can receive so households on out of work benefits will no longer receive more in benefit than the average weekly wage earned by working families.

The benefits to be included in the benefit cap will be set out in regulations following the passage of the Welfare Reform Bill.

The Bill proposes that all benefits may be included in the cap apart from state pension credit and state retirement pensions.

However, we have announced that there will be exemptions for war widows and widowers and households that include a member who is entitled to disability living allowance, constant attendance allowance or working tax credit.

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made an assessment of the likelihood of households separating as a result of the implementation of a cap on benefit entitlement. [45179]

**Chris Grayling:** We are introducing a cap on the total amount of benefit that working-age people can receive so households on out of work benefits will no longer receive more in benefit than the average weekly wage earned by working families.

No assessment has been made of the likelihood of households separating as a result of the implementation of a cap on benefit entitlement.

We are looking at ways of easing the transition for families and providing assistance in hard cases.

## Child Maintenance

**Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to publish a consultation on the proposed regulations to implement sections 27 and 28 of the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 on administrative disqualification for holding or obtaining travel authorisation and curfew orders. [44241]

**Maria Miller:** No date has yet been confirmed, however, I do not expect this to be prior to the introduction of the new statutory child maintenance scheme.

## Social Security Benefits: Public Expenditure

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assumptions his Department made in its projections for the number of people claiming benefits over the comprehensive spending review period. [44994]

**Chris Grayling:** Numbers of people receiving benefits over the comprehensive spending review period, consistent with the Office for Budget Responsibility's 'Economic and Fiscal Outlook', published on 29 November 2010, are given the following table.

Key assumptions underpinning these forecasts are provided in the OBR 'Economic and Fiscal Outlook', and the associated OBR 'Briefing Paper No 1: Forecasting the Public Finances'.

*Forecasts of numbers of people receiving benefits, Great Britain, 2010-11 to 2015-16*

*Thousand*

| | *2010-11* | *2011-12* | *2012-13* | *2013-14* | *2014-15* | *2015-16* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Working age benefits* | | | | | | |
| Widow's/bereavement benefits | 93 | 88 | 84 | 80 | 77 | 74 |
| Jobseeker's allowance (contribution-based) | 235 | 248 | 235 | 215 | 204 | 190 |
| Incapacity benefit (payments) | 1,051 | 794 | 414 | 89 | — | — |
| Incapacity benefit—credits only | 774 | 603 | 344 | 125 | — | — |
| Employment and support allowance (contribution-based) | 258 | 416 | 504 | 559 | 581 | 430 |
| Maternity allowance | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 56 | 56 |

*Forecasts of numbers of people receiving benefits, Great Britain, 2010-11 to 2015-16*

*Thousand*

| | *2010-11* | *2011-12* | *2012-13* | *2013-14* | *2014-15* | *2015-16* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Severe disablement allowance | 190 | 182 | 175 | 158 | 4 | — |
| Industrial injuries disablement benefit | 260 | 257 | 253 | 249 | 246 | 242 |
| Reduced earnings allowance/retirement allowance | 116 | 112 | 108 | 104 | 100 | 97 |
| Industrial death benefit | 7 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| Income support | 1,736 | 1,414 | 1,074 | 810 | 697 | 705 |
| Jobseeker's allowance (income-based) | 1,073 | 1,070 | 1,011 | 938 | 866 | 790 |
| Employment and support allowance (income-based) | 297 | 441 | 761 | 1,069 | 1,310 | 1,381 |
| Housing benefit | 3,223 | 3,221 | 3,195 | 3,157 | 3,160 | 3,159 |
| Council tax benefit | 3,142 | 3,113 | 3,074 | 3,025 | 3,024 | 3,015 |
| | | | | | | |
| *Pensioner benefits* | | | | | | |
| Basic state pension (excluding category D) | 12,509 | 12,644 | 12,795 | 12,892 | 12,993 | 13,054 |
| Widow's/bereavement benefits | 11 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Basic state pension (Category D) | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 34 |
| Severe disablement allowance | 58 | 57 | 56 | 54 | 52 | 50 |
| Winter fuel payments | 12,715 | 12,589 | 12,473 | 12,356 | 12,228 | 12,088 |
| Over-75 TV licence | 4,195 | 4,273 | 4,358 | 4,451 | 4,547 | 4,639 |
| Pension credit | 2,692 | 2,564 | 2,493 | 2,421 | 2,354 | 2,311 |
| Housing benefit | 1,542 | 1,500 | 1,450 | 1,404 | 1,373 | 1,337 |
| Council tax benefit | 2,632 | 2,572 | 2,504 | 2,432 | 2,385 | 2,331 |
| | | | | | | |
| *Disability related benefits* | | | | | | |
| Attendance allowance | 1,635 | 1,652 | 1,674 | 1,697 | 1,719 | 1,742 |
| Disability living allowance | 3,214 | 3,291 | 3,346 | 3,266 | 3,144 | 3,121 |
| Carer's allowance | 566 | 587 | 600 | 615 | 629 | 644 |

*Note:*

Figures for Over 75 TV Licences include Northern Ireland. Figures for all other benefits also include recipients who are resident outside the United Kingdom.

*Source:*

DWP forecasts underlying the OBR 'Economic and Fiscal Outlook' and published at: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=expenditure

## Universal Credit

**Kate Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with what frequency universal credit will be paid to claimants. [44824]

**Chris Grayling:** Universal credit will offer a substantially better service to our customers, with regular payments that will help them to budget. In line with this and the need for consistency with the real-time earnings approach that we propose, we are considering whether the frequency of payments should be monthly.

We recognise that many people on low incomes will be used to managing with fortnightly payments of benefits and will ensure that, whatever the period of payment we put in place, there will be appropriate budgeting support for claimants. We want people to be able to manage their financial affairs in a manner that best reflects the demands of modern life, whether in or out of work.

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to paragraph 59 of his Department's impact assessment on universal credit, how many second earners he expects to reduce the number of hours worked as a consequence of higher participation rates. [45180]

**Chris Grayling:** We are not able to provide an estimate of the number of second earners who will reduce their hours worked as a consequence of higher participation rates. We are currently considering whether there is a way of robustly estimating these effects.

Overall we expect the number of workless households to fall as a result of improved incentives to work under universal credit.

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to paragraph 44 of his Department's impact assessment on universal credit, for how long he plans to provide transitional protection to households whose entitlement will be reduced following the introduction of universal credit. [45182]

**Chris Grayling:** We have given a commitment that no one will experience a reduction in the amount of benefit they receive as a direct result of the introduction of universal credit.

In most cases, we expect that universal credit will provide a level of support that is the same as, or higher than, the current system. Transitional protection will be awarded if the entitlement is lower and the circumstances have not changed.

Any cash protection awarded will be fixed at the point of claim and will remain in place until claimants' circumstances change or the universal credit entitlement exceeds the protected amount.

### Universal Credit: Public Expenditure

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cumulative savings to his Department's annually managed expenditure which are attributable to policy decisions confirmed in *(a)* Budget 2010 and *(b)* the comprehensive spending review and which will be achieved prior to the implementation of universal credit. [45137]

**Chris Grayling:** The annually managed expenditure savings were set out in the June Budget and the Office of Budget Responsibility's autumn forecast, and will be updated as part of the forthcoming Budget.

### Warm Home Discount Scheme

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 26 July 2010, *Official Report,* column 778W, on energy, when his Department expects to begin data-sharing with energy suppliers as part of the Warm Home discount scheme. [45746]

**Steve Webb:** We are currently working closely with DECC and energy suppliers to agree the detail of data sharing under the Warm Home discount scheme. We expect to have the necessary regulations in place by summer 2011, subject to the parliamentary process. The first data matching exercise under the scheme is planned for winter 2011-12.

### Winter Fuel Payments: British Nationals Abroad

**Stephen McPartland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy to apply a means test to winter fuel payments to UK citizens living outside the UK. [46046]

**Steve Webb:** Winter fuel payments are paid to former UK residents living in the European economic area only if they qualified for a payment before leaving the UK.

European Union law means that some benefits acquired in one member state must be paid to people when they move to another country within the European economic area. The same eligibility rules for winter fuel payments must apply to people who have moved to the EEA as in the UK.

## JUSTICE

### Animal Welfare: Convictions

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons were convicted of offences related to animal trafficking in each of the last four years. [45415]

**Mr Blunt:** The number of defendants convicted at all courts for offences under the Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1997, England and Wales, 2006 to 2009 (latest available) is given in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned to be published in spring, 2011.

*Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences related to endangered species trafficking, England and Wales, from 2006 to 2009*[1,2]

| *Offence description* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008*[3] | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Offences under the Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1997 | 10 | — | 3 | 3 |

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence Is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is Imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

*Source:*
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

### Bail Hostels

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much was paid by his Department to ClearSprings for the provision of bail beds between 2007 and the termination of the contract; [45817]

(2) whether ClearSprings was required to make any payments to his Department for breach of contract in the period from 2007 to 2010. [45818]

**Mr Blunt:** ClearSprings completed a full three year contract for the provision of the Bail Accommodation and Support Service from 18 June 2007 to 17 June 2010. The company was paid £18.4 million over the life span of contract.

ClearSprings was issued with a Rectification Notice in November 2009 for failure to comply with the terms of the contract for the Bail Accommodation and Support Service. The company addressed all the issues raised in the notice within prescribed time frames and no payment was required.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many complaints were received by his Department about the conduct of the ClearSprings bail bed contract in the period from 2007 to 2010; [45819]

(2) how many complaints received by his Department about the ClearSprings bail bed contract related to *(a)* the behaviour of residents and *(b)* lack of supervision in the period from 2007 to 2010. [45820]

**Mr Blunt:** I am unable to provide information about the number of complaints about ClearSprings as this could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The Ministry of Justice has received a substantial volume of correspondence about the Bail Accommodation and Support Service and it would require checking each item of correspondence separately to determine whether it was a complaint or not.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons who were resident in ClearSprings properties during its contract to supply bail beds to the Ministry of Justice were arrested between 2007 and 2010. [45821]

**Mr Blunt:** Information on how many arrests were made of defendants and offenders on home detention curfew while accommodated by ClearSprings cannot be obtained except at disproportionate cost. To answer this question would require us, the police and courts to conduct a manual search of the 5,846 cases that were referred to ClearSprings during the term of the contract.

### Civil Proceedings: Legal Costs

**Robert Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of the effects on access to justice for lower income groups of his Department's proposed changes to the civil litigation costs regime; [45266]

(2) what research his Department has undertaken on the effects of its proposed civil litigation costs regime on the propensity of individuals to make a legitimate claim for compensation in personal injury cases. [45267]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Ministry of Justice has not commissioned any specific research on the effect of the civil litigation proposals on the propensity of individuals to make legitimate claims for compensation in personal injury cases. It is not possible to make detailed estimates in this area, as this will depend, in part, on the individual decisions of claimants, defendants, lawyers and insurers on a case by case basis.

Preliminary impact assessments were published alongside the consultation, 'Proposals for Reform of Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Proposals', available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/jackson-review-151110.htm

The consultation closed on 14 February 2011. We are now considering the responses and data received. A final impact assessment will be published alongside the Government response later this spring.

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) with reference to paragraph 46 of his Department's Green Paper on Proposals for Reform of Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales, over what time period the calculations made on the effect of a 10% increase of general damages were based; [45679]

(2) with reference to paragraph 96 of his Department's Green Paper on Proposals for Reform of Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales, whether the estimate of a 10% uplift in general damages is based exclusively on applying 10% to those damages representing only pain suffering and loss of amenity. [45683]

**Mr Djanogly:** The increase was proposed by Lord Justice Jackson, as part of his package of reforms. The calculations on the effect of this proposal, by his economist assessor Professor Fenn, were based on data relating to general damages for claims settled between 2006 and 2009. It is intended that the proposed 10% increase would apply to non-pecuniary general damages such as in personal injury claims pain, suffering and loss of amenity.

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had on his Department's Green Paper on Proposals for Reform of Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales since the end of the consultation period. [45681]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Secretary of State for Justice has not held any meetings with external interested parties specifically to discuss the Proposals for Reform of Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales since the end of the consultation period. I met with the Access to Justice Action Group (AJAG) on 17 February, to discuss their response to the consultation.

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many responses have been received to the Green Paper consultation on Proposals for Reform of Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales; [45682]

(2) when he expects to respond to the consultation on the Green Paper proposals for Reform of Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales. [45684]

**Mr Djanogly:** The consultation Proposals for Reform of Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Proposals closed on 14 February 2011. Over 800 responses to the consultation were received; this includes responses via the online questionnaire, e-mail and hard copy responses, and 255 campaign e-mails. We are now considering all responses, and will publish the Government response, setting out the way forward, later this spring.

### Community Orders

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were sentenced to unpaid work as a condition of a supervision order in England and Wales in 2009-10; how many such sentences involved individual placements; and how many such sentences involved additional conditions. [45964]

**Mr Blunt:** The number of all unpaid work community order requirements which commenced under probation service supervision in the year 2009 (latest available) is 76,699.

The figures can be found in the published "Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2009"—table 3.9, a copy of which can be found in the Libraries of both Houses and which can be found at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

Statistics on individual placements sought for 2009-10 are not yet available as recordings for central statistical purposes were only introduced in April 2010.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

### Crimes of Violence: Victims

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the merits of informing victims of *(a)* domestic and *(b)* other violent attacks where the perpetrator has received a custodial sentence of less than one year of the date and location of the perpetrator's release. [45316]

**Mr Blunt:** Under the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004, victims of certain serious violent and sexual offences, where the offender receives a custodial sentence of 12 months or more, may elect to receive information about key developments in the offender's sentence through the Victim Contact Scheme operated by probation trusts. Such key information will include where offenders are moved to open conditions, where they are granted a work placement in the community for rehabilitation and the month of release from prison.

Eligible victims are able to make representations about conditions which may be attached to the offender's licence on release and under probation supervision. They can, for example, request that the offender is excluded from a particular area, such as where they (the victims) live.

The scheme is flexible enough to allow probation trusts, in exceptional circumstances, to provide key information to victims who do not meet the statutory criteria. Such circumstances might include, for example, domestic violence cases where the offender was given a sentence of less than 12 months, but where the victim wishes to opt in, even though such an offender would not be subject to licensed supervision.

The statutory scheme provides for the available resources to be directed primarily towards the victims of the most serious violent or sexual offences, where the offender is to be on licensed supervision following release and where victims might make representations about licence conditions.

However, there are other sources of support and advice for victims where the offender receives a short sentence. The police are notified of all prisoner releases by the National Offender Management Service and are, therefore, in a position to take appropriate action to protect victims who may be at risk and to support those who express concern about their personal safety. This could include notifying victims of an offender's release.

For victims of domestic violence in particular, the police may arrange to manage the case through the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process. It would be open to the MARAC to put in place measures to protect a victim or potential victim, including providing information about an offender's release.

## Departmental Procurement

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many procurement projects with a monetary value greater than *(a)* £10 million, *(b)* £50 million and *(c)* £100 million (i) his Department and (ii) each non-departmental public body and agency for which he is responsible was engaged upon in the latest period for which figures are available; [45571]

(2) which procurement projects engaged upon by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental public body and agency for which he is responsible had a designated senior responsible owner in the latest period for which figures are available; and on what date each officer was appointed in each such case. [45572]

**Mr Blunt:** The number of procurement projects in 2009-10 and 2010-11 to date are:

| *Department name* | *Monetary value greater than* | *Number of projects* |
|---|---|---|
| Ministry of Justice | £10 million | 2 |
| | £50 million | 1 |
| | £100 million | 2 |
| National Offender Management Service | £10 million | 6 |
| | £50 million | 1 |
| | £100 million | 3 |
| Land Registry | £10 million | 1 |
| | £50 million | 1 |
| Tribunals Service | £10 million | 1 |

The following table is a list of procurement projects where an SRO has been appointed and includes date of appointment (approximate in some cases):

| *Department name* | *Project name* | *Date SRO appointed* |
|---|---|---|
| Ministry of Justice | Minor Works Framework | August 2009 |
| Ministry of Justice | Estates Professional Services | March 2010 |
| Ministry of Justice | Construction and Construction related Works | 17 July 2010 |
| National Offender Management Service | Bail Accommodation and Support Services (BASS) | 18 June 2010 |
| National Offender Management Service | Prisoner Escort and Custody Services Competition | 6 September 2010 |
| National Offender Management Service | Prison Competitions Programme | 21 February 2011 |
| Information Commissioner's Office | Building Project | November 2009 |

| *Department name* | *Project name* | *Date SRO appointed* |
|---|---|---|
| Information Commissioner's Office | Management Development | December 2009 |
| Information Commissioner's Office | Data User Information System Replacement | April 2010 |
| Land Registry | Accelerated Transformation Programme | 27 November 2009 |
| Land Registry | Facilities Management | 27 November 2009 |
| Land Registry | Regional File Stores Service | 27 November 2009 |
| Tribunals Service | Reinstatement of Field House | July 2009 |

## Knives: Crime

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many and what proportion of people convicted of encouraging violent behaviour involving the use of a knife under the Knives Act 1997 received *(a)* a fine and *(b)* a custodial sentence of (i) less than six months, (ii) between six and 12 months, (iii) between 12 and 18 months and (iv) between 18 and 24 months in (A) Suffolk, (B) Bedfordshire, (C) Cambridgeshire, (D) Essex, (E) Hertfordshire and (F) Norfolk in each year since the relevant provisions of the Act entered into force; [45843]

(2) how many people were found guilty of offences relating to the illegal sale and marketing of knives in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Bedfordshire, *(c)* Cambridgeshire, *(d)* Essex, *(e)* Hertfordshire and *(f)* Norfolk in each year since 1997. [45844]

**Mr Blunt:** There are no convictions for offences of encouraging violent behaviour involving the use of a knife or the illegal sale and marketing of knives under sections 1 and 2 of the Knives Act 1997 from data collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice for Suffolk, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire and Norfolk police force areas.

Court proceedings data for 2010 will be available in the spring of 2011.

## Legal Aid Scheme: Judicial Reviews

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 942W, on legal aid: prisoners, if he will direct the Legal Services Commission to break down expenditure on judicial reviews between practice areas. [45772]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Legal Services Commission's (LSC) costs for defending judicial reviews in the last financial year (2009-10) were £224,119. This represents the total costs of external legal advice for public law judicial reviews. The LSC does not hold a more detailed breakdown showing individual categories of law in an easily accessible format and therefore such a breakdown could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The costs to the legal aid fund of judicial review certificates in 2009-10, broken down by category of law for closed cases, are shown in the following table.

| *Case category* | *Total (£)*[1] |
|---|---|
| Community Care | 2,078,470 |
| Education | 668,153 |
| Housing | 2,485 |
| Immigration | 1,968,273 |
| Mental Health | 2,703,841 |
| Miscellaneous | 399,877 |
| Other Public Law Children | 637,807 |
| Public Law | 4,024,992 |
| Welfare Benefits | 242,570 |
| Grand total | 12,726,468 |

[1] As is standard with closed case reporting, the following types of cases have been excluded:
Cases where full or part of the cost is paid by the opponent. Cost of these cases would be at market rate and not the legal aid rate.
Cases that are discharged or revoked, as they shouldn't have been issued in the first place.
Cases with zero bills (where cost is equal to Auto POA or less than £10.)
Dormant cases.

## Legal Aid: Negligence Cases

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how disbursements in clinical negligence cases will be funded when such cases are withdrawn from the scope of legal aid; and if he will make a statement. [45680]

**Mr Djanogly:** The consultation documents "Proposals for the Reform of Legal Aid in England and Wales" and "Proposals for Reform of Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales" were published in November 2010. It is proposed that clinical negligence cases be removed from the scope of legal aid because alternative forms of funding are available in the form of conditional fee agreements (CFAs).

We have consulted on how the proposals should be implemented to ensure that meritorious cases are still able to be brought. The consultations closed on 14 February and we are carefully considering the responses including as to how disbursements should be funded.

## Legal Aid: Rochdale

**Simon Danczuk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will undertake a cost-benefit analysis of his Department's funding for legal aid in Rochdale in the latest period for which figures are available; [45332]

(2) if he will assess the capacity of the voluntary sector to undertake legal aid work following implementation of his Department's proposed reductions in the legal aid budget in Rochdale. [45333]

**Mr Djanogly:** The consultation in respect of 'Proposals for the Reform of Legal Aid in England and Wales' closed on 14 February 2011 and the responses to the consultation are currently being considered. The Government's response to consultation is expected to be published in the spring.

Draft impact assessments and equality impact assessments were published alongside the consultation paper, which also asked specific questions on the impacts identified therein. We are currently considering the responses to these questions and will use these to inform final impact assessments (IA) and equality impact assessments (EIA) which will be published alongside the response to consultation.

The IA and EIA assess the impact of the proposals on the voluntary sector but do not present detail at regional or local levels.

There are no current plans to undertake a cost-benefit analysis or an assessment of the capacity of the voluntary sector in the hon. Member's constituency.

## Civil Litigation: Costs

**Robert Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with (i) insurers and (ii) claimant solicitors and their representative bodies to discuss proposed changes to the civil litigation costs regime since May 2010. [45256]

**Mr Djanogly:** I met with the Association of British Insurers (ABI) on 29 July. During the consultation period for Proposals for Reform of Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations, I hosted three roundtable discussions with interested parties. The first, on 2 December 2010 aimed to include parties on all sides of the debate; claimant and defendant solicitors, insurers, after the event (ATE) insurers and other interested parties. I then held meetings with a group of claimant practitioners on 18 January 2011, and defendant practitioners, including insurers and the ABI on 19 January 2011.

The Secretary of State and I have regular meetings with representative bodies, covering a range of issues. The Secretary of State has not held any meetings with insurers or claimant solicitors specifically to discuss the proposed changes to civil litigation funding and costs.

## Members: Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to answer the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 25 January 2011 with regard to Caroline Woods. [45233]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** I will reply to the right hon. Member shortly. I apologise for the delay.

## Offenders: Berkshire

**Alok Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the reoffending rate was for offenders resident in *(a)* Reading West constituency, *(b)* Reading and *(c)* Berkshire in each of the last 10 years. [46596]

**Mr Blunt:** Reoffending rates are not available by constituency boundaries. Reoffending rates for adult offenders by local authority are available. The following table shows these reoffending rates for the local authorities within Berkshire county, including Reading.

*Three month re-offending rates for local authorities within Berkshire county, 2008, 2009*

| *Local authority/re-offending period (calendar year)* | *Actual rate of reoffending (percentage)* |
|---|---|
| *Bracknell Forest* | |
| 2008 | 8.03 |
| 2009 | 11.18 |
| *Reading* | |
| 2008 | 10.51 |
| 2009 | 10.25 |
| *Slough* | |
| 2008 | 9.32 |
| 2009 | 7.97 |
| *West Berkshire* | |
| 2008 | 10.30 |
| 2009 | 10.19 |
| *Windsor and Maidenhead* | |
| 2008 | 7.76 |
| 2009 | 8.61 |
| *Wokingham* | |
| 2008 | 7.00 |
| 2009 | 8.17 |

Comparing changes in the actual rates of reoffending between areas does not ensure a like for like comparison as the mix of offenders being dealt with may vary across areas and over time.

Local adult reoffending rates by probation area or local authority are not available for periods prior to 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008.

Further details on local adult reoffending is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/local-adult-reoffending.htm

## Offenders: Employment Schemes

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to encourage *(a)* businesses and *(b)* local authorities to offer work placements, training and jobs to offenders (i) before and (ii) after their release. [45218]

**Mr Blunt:** In 'Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders', published on 7 December 2010, we set out our intention to engage business to help us make prisons places of work and industry, to help shape and deliver skills training to offenders, and to offer apprenticeships and permanent employment to offenders as part of their rehabilitation.

There are already examples of successful partnerships with business in these areas, which take place both before and after release from prison. We plan to encourage more with the help of senior business leaders who are prepared to champion what they do. There are also many examples of public sector organisations, including local authorities, offering training and employment opportunities to offenders and we will continue to encourage them to do so.

### Personal Injury

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 8 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 294W, on personal injury, (1) how many claims brought against his Department and its agencies were *(a)* settled (i) before proceedings and (ii) after proceedings, *(b)* lost at trial by his Department and *(c)* lost at trial by the claimant; [45383]

(2) how much his Department has paid in damages in respect of personal injury claims in each year since 2007-08. [45385]

**Mr Djanogly:** The information requested is not held centrally for all the relevant business areas for the years specified. Collating that information would involve manually sifting through all the health and safety files that have been placed in storage which would incur disproportionate cost.

The following table does however provide totals in relation to personal injury claims against the Prison Service and MoJ staff stress related claims. Central records do not distinguish between which ones were settled before proceedings and which ones were settled after proceedings were commenced.

| | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
|---|---|---|---|
| (1.a) Total number of personal injury claims—Settled | 621 | 658 | 507 |
| (1.b) Total number of personal injury claims that the Department lost at trial | 26 | 12 | 15 |
| (1.c) Total number of personal injury claims that the claimant lost at trial | 14 | 14 | 22 |
| (2) Total damages paid in respect of personal injury claims (£) | 6,303,378 | 6,108,769 | 7,688,479 |

### Prison Service: Market Testing

**Mr Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what involvement the former Director of the National Offender Management Service has had in the market testing process currently undertaken by HM Prison Service; and if he will make a statement. [45263]

**Mr Blunt:** In his former role as Director General of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), Philip Wheatley chaired the NOMS board. The NOMS board delegated responsibility for overseeing, directing and monitoring all competition within NOMS Agency to the Offender Services Competition Board (known as the Commissioning and Competitions Board from March 2010). Mr Wheatley did not deal with the receipt of tenders for the current round of prisons competitions, and has not been involved in the contract awarding process.

Mr Wheatley left Crown employment in June 2010. Following his departure, Mr Wheatley requested permission from NOMS/Ministry of Justice to undertake work for G4S. Under the business appointment rules (see Annex A, section 4.3 of the Civil Service Management Code), particular attention was given to whether Mr Wheatley would give G4S an improper advantage in the current round of prisons competitions. His work for G4S was approved, as there was no evidence that the work he was employed to do would compromise confidentiality or give an advantage.

### Prison Service: Training

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what training is provided to staff employed on the new prison officer contract; [46913]

(2) how many days of training is provided to staff employed on the new prison officer contract. [46914]

**Mr Blunt:** All newly recruited prison officers within public sector prisons are required to complete a one year foundation training programme, leading to a level 3 National Vocational Qualification Diploma in Custodial Care (CCNVQ). Training begins with an eight week (40 working days) Prison Officer Entry Level Training (POELT) course, which is mainly college- based. This provides staff all the underpinning knowledge and understanding in core skills required to successfully complete their CCNVQ in the workplace within 12 months of joining the National Offender Management Service.

### Prosecutions: Brighton

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions there were in Brighton and Hove under section 12a of the Criminal Law Act 1977 in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [45394]

**Mr Blunt:** Offences under Section 12a of the Criminal Law Act 1977 cannot be separately identified from court proceedings data collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice as they form part of a miscellaneous group of offences which cannot be separately analysed.

### Reoffenders: Greater London

**Mr Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the likely effect of reductions in probation service budgets on reoffending rates in Lewisham and Croydon during the payment-by-results pilots. [46014]

**Mr Blunt:** The budget for probation trusts is planned to reduce by 10% over the comprehensive spending review period. The National Offender Management Service does not expect that this budget reduction will have an impact on reoffending rates. The Ministry of

Justice is clear that probation trusts must deliver savings by streamlining administration and delivering services more effectively. Funding must be focused on maintaining front-line services, to protect the public and reduce reoffending.

**Mr Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the likely effect of reductions in probation, police and court budgets in Lewisham and Croydon on rates of *(a)* arrest and *(b)* conviction over the next two years. [46015]

**Mr Blunt:** The Ministry of Justice and the Home Office have not made a specific assessment of the impact of reductions in probation, police and court budgets in Lewisham and Croydon on rates of arrest and conviction over the next two years.

The Ministry of Justice has been clear that a large part of the savings required by the spending review settlement will be achieved through improvements in efficiency and cutting administration, while maintaining current performance. In terms of police funding, the Government allocate funding to police authorities as a whole but it is only right that decisions about the use of resources are made locally. The Metropolitan Police Commissioner and the Police Authority are better placed to judge local need and prioritise resources accordingly.

The Ministry of Justice will be monitoring a number of trends and impacts in Lewisham and Croydon over the next two years, as part of the evaluation of a project to test a local approach to payment-by-results. The approach will be tested from April 2011 across a number of London boroughs, including Lewisham and Croydon, and in Manchester city region, as announced in the Ministry of Justice Green Paper, "Breaking the Cycle". The approach aims to share the savings if a local area is able to reduce demand on criminal justice services. The savings could then be reinvested in further reoffending prevention activity at the local level.

**Mr Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will monitor trends in the issue of fixed penalty notices during the duration of the payment-by-results pilots in Lewisham and Croydon; [46011]

(2) if she will assess trends in the number of cautions issued by police officers in Lewisham and Croydon during the payment-by-results pilots in those boroughs undertaken by the Ministry of Justice; [46012]

(3) if he will assess the potential effect of reductions in rates of benefit on re-offending and conviction rates during the payment-by-results pilots in Lewisham and Croydon; [46013]

**Mr Blunt:** The Ministry of Justice announced in the Green Paper, "Breaking the Cycle", published in December 2010 that it is developing a model to share the savings if a local area is able to reduce demand on criminal justice services. The savings could then be reinvested in further reoffending prevention activity at the local level.

To test the local area approach, the Ministry of Justice will run two projects from April 2011 for two years in Manchester city region and across a number of London boroughs, including Croydon and Lewisham.

The Ministry of Justice will evaluate the projects to understand the impact of the projects on demand on the criminal justice system, and other factors that may affect demand in the project areas. This will include monitoring reoffending and crime rates over the course of the two-year project. We will also monitor a wider range of trends and impacts, and this will be finalised as part of the evaluation approach for the project.

### Repossession Orders: Brighton and Hove

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many interim possession orders were implemented in Brighton and Hove in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; [45396]

(2) on how many occasions a magistrate in a court in Brighton and Hove was asked to hear a sworn statement that a defendant was the rightful occupier of an address given in court in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [45419]

**Mr Djanogly:** There was one interim possession order made in Brighton county court in 2008, none in 2009, and none in the first three quarters (January to September) of 2010, the latest period for which data are available.

The civil procedure rules state that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, county courts jurisdictions are not coterminous with the boundaries for other geographical areas. The above figures do not therefore necessarily relate to properties located in Brighton and Hove.

The Ministry of Justice does not hold figures centrally which specifically relate to magistrates being asked to hear a sworn statement that defendants are the rightful occupiers of the address given in court. This is because the incidence of such events is not recorded onto the main administrative system in the magistrates courts.

### Repossession Orders: Suffolk

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many court orders were issued for the repossession of homes in *(a)* Bury St Edmunds constituency and *(b)* Suffolk County Council area in each year since 1997. [45846]

**Mr Djanogly:** The table shows the numbers of claims leading to orders being made for the repossession of property in the Bury St. Edmunds constituency and Suffolk county by mortgage lenders in each year since 2000 and landlords in each year since 2003. Data for previous years are not available due to the lack of valid postcodes.

These figures represent the numbers of claims leading to orders being made. This is more accurate than the number of orders, removing the double-counting of instances where a single claim leads to more than one order. It is also a more meaningful measure of the number of homeowners who are subject to court repossession actions.

These figures do not indicate how many properties have actually been repossessed. Repossessions can occur without a court order, such as where borrowers hand the keys back to the lender. Also, not all possession orders result in repossession. Many orders are suspended and if the borrower complies with the repayment arrangements set out in the suspended order the property will not be repossessed.

*Number of mortgage[1] and landlord[2,3] possession claims leading to orders made[4,5,6] relating to Bury St. Edmunds constituency[7] and Suffolk county, 2000-2010[8,9,10]*

| | Mortgage claims leading to orders made | | Landlord claims leading to orders made | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Bury St Edmunds constituency | Suffolk county | Bury St Edmunds constituency | Suffolk county |
| 2000 | 40 | 385 | — | — |
| 2001 | 40 | 355 | — | — |
| 2002 | 30 | 295 | — | — |
| 2003 | 40 | 330 | 130 | 1,085 |
| 2004 | 50 | 450 | 130 | 1,050 |
| 2005 | 65 | 615 | 135 | 945 |
| 2006 | 80 | 740 | 135 | 1,020 |
| 2007 | 65 | 700 | 100 | 820 |
| 2008 | 105 | 925 | 150 | 890 |
| 2009 | 70 | 700 | 145 | 1,095 |
| 2010 | 55 | 545 | 130 | 890 |

[1] Includes all types of mortgage lenders.

[2] Includes all types of landlords whether social or private.

[3] Landlord actions include those made under both standard and accelerated procedures. Landlord actions via the accelerated procedure enables the orders to be made solely on the basis of written evidence for shorthold tenancies, when the fixed period of tenancy has come to an end.

[4] The number of claims that lead to an order includes all claims in which the first order, whether outright or suspended, is made during the period.

[5] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.

[6] Includes outright and suspended orders, the latter being where the court grants the claimant possession but suspends the operation of the order. Provided the defendant complies with the terms of suspension, which usually require the defendant to pay the current mortgage or rent instalments plus some of the accrued arrears, the possession order cannot be enforced.

[7] Due to constituency boundary changes which occurred at the recent general election on 6 May 2010, the constituency figures are based on boundaries defined prior to the election from 2000 up to and including the first quarter of 2010 (January-March) and on boundaries after the election for the remaining three quarters of 2010.

[8] Due to the lack of valid postcode data, counts for landlord possession cases are only available from 2003 onwards.

[9] All figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

[10] Figures for 2010 are provisional.

*Source:*
Ministry of Justice

### Sentencing

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has plans to increase the maximum sentencing powers of magistrates. [44943]

**Mr Blunt:** The Government are currently considering changes to sentencing policy in the light of the responses to the recent Green Paper on rehabilitation and sentencing, though the Green Paper did not propose plans to increase magistrates' sentencing powers.

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has plans to bring forward proposals to enable magistrates to sentence offenders to six month consecutive sentences for more than one summary-only offence. [44945]

**Mr Blunt:** The Government are currently considering changes to sentencing policy in the light of the responses to the recent Green Paper on rehabilitation and sentencing. However, we have no current plans to increase magistrates' sentencing powers.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to answer question 40185, tabled on 8 February 2011 for named day answer on 11 February 2011. [46932]

**Mr Harper** *[holding answer 11 February 2011]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Government do not disclose their legal advice. Disclosure of legal advice has a high potential to prejudice the Government's ability to defend their legal interests—both directly, by unfairly exposing their legal position to challenge, and indirectly by diminishing the reliance they can place on the advice having been fully considered and presented without fear or favour. Neither of these is in the public interest.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Middle East and North Africa

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has reviewed its policy on the licensed sale of defence equipment as a result of recent unrest in the middle east and North Africa. [45613]

**Mr Prisk:** We have reviewed all existing licences for military and security equipment for countries in the region and a number of these licences have been revoked. The situation remains under review and all future applications for export of equipment to this region will continue to be carefully considered against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria, taking into account how the situation develops.

### Arms Brokers

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the merits of requiring arms brokers to register under a code of conduct and of revoking the licences of those who do not comply with the code. [45629]

**Mr Prisk:** As things stand, I am not convinced that a register of arms brokers would justify the extra bureaucracy it would cause; however, I continue to keep this issue under review.

### Arms Export Licences

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions the Government have revoked arms export licences over the last 12 months; and for what reasons in each case. [45611]

**Mr Prisk:** Consolidated information on revoked licences is published in the course of regular reporting through the Government's Annual and Quarterly reports on Strategic Export Controls. These reports contain information about the number of licences revoked, by destination, and a summary of the items covered by these licences. Detailed reasons are not included, but in most cases licences will have been revoked because circumstances have changed which has led us to have concerns about the proposed export that we did not have at the time of application.

The reports are available to view on the Strategic Export Controls: Reports and Statistics website at:

https://www.exportcontroldb.berr.gov.uk/eng/fox

Currently this includes information up to 30 September 2010. Information covering 1 October to 31 December 2010 will be published in April and information covering 1 January to 31 March will be published in July this year.

### Arms Supply

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what mechanisms his Department has in place to ensure that arms supplied by UK manufacturers are not sold to other countries for the purpose of use for internal repression; and what recent assessment he has made of their effectiveness. [45628]

**Mr Prisk:** An export licence is required to export arms and other military equipment from the United Kingdom. All export licence applications are rigorously assessed on a case-by-case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria taking account of all prevailing circumstances at the time of the application. A licence will not be issued where to do so would be inconsistent with the criteria or other relevant announced commitments. In particular criterion two concerns the 'respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the country of final destination', and states that the Government will not issue an export licence if there is a clear risk that the proposed export might be used for internal repression. If a re-export of concern comes to light we can and do factor that into our assessment of subsequent licence applications for similar goods to that destination.

### Arms Export Licensing

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria his Department applies to the licensing for export of weapons for *(a)* offensive and *(b)* defensive purposes. [46203]

**Mr Prisk:** The Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria.

### Business: Regulation

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department's one-in, one-out policy applies to EU regulations. [44285]

**Mr Prisk:** At present EU measures will not be counted as INs unless a Department exceptionally imposes a measure that goes beyond the minimum requirements (i.e. if it is gold-plated, in which case the gold-plated element will be cost as an IN). Existing EU legislation can be counted as an OUT if it is repealed or revoked, or if gold-plating is removed or if a derogation that imposed costs to business is voluntarily curtailed ahead of its maximum term expiring.

### Companies: Exports

**Gordon Birtwistle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department takes to encourage companies to export manufactured products. [43284]

**Mr Prisk** *[holding answer 9 March 2011]:* The Trade and Investment for Growth White Paper, published on 9 February, set out the Government's framework for encouraging trade and investment in the UK and internationally. Linked to this, UKTI is developing a new strategy as part of the Government's growth review. This will set out new priorities for trade promotion. It is through these activities this Department encourages businesses new to exporting to discover and seize international opportunities, and more experienced exporters to improve their exporting capability.

UKTI services are delivered through a network of international trade advisers in England, partner organisations in the devolved Administrations, sector specialists in the UK and staff in 96 overseas markets. In 2009/10, UKTI provided significant help to some 23,600 exporters generating over £5 billion of added value to the UK economy. UKTI has an ongoing and active programme of support for the UK manufacturing sector, in partnership with numerous stakeholders, including organising UK groups at overseas trade shows, leading targeted trade missions and bringing potential buyers and decision-makers to the UK to see our manufacturing capability first-hand.

The Government are also launching four new products to support exporters that will be offered by the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) alongside its existing facilities and services. The new products are: a bond support scheme; a more simple credit insurance product; an export working capital scheme; and a foreign exchange credit support product. With the launch of these new products, ECGD is widening the range of eligible exports it will support, which was previously confined to capital and semi-capital goods and services.

### Companies: Overseas Subsidiaries

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many successful actions the Companies Investigation Branch brought against firms for failure to fully declare overseas subsidiaries under the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011 to date; [45942]

(2) how many investigations the Companies Investigation Branch conducted into firms suspected of failure to fully declare overseas subsidiaries under the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 in (a) 2009, (b) 2010 and (c) 2011 to date. [45943]

**Mr Davey:** The information requested is not separately recorded and as a consequence is not available.

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what steps his Department and its agencies are taking to enforce the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 in respect of declaration of overseas subsidiaries; [45944]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of enforcement mechanisms for the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 on the declaration of overseas subsidiaries; [45945]

(3) whether his Department is taking steps to increase transparency in the declaration of overseas subsidiaries by UK businesses. [45946]

**Mr Davey:** Under the Companies Act 2006 companies must disclose in their accounts certain information about any subsidiary undertakings including the location of any overseas. Alternatively, where that requirement would result in excessively lengthy notes to the accounts, provide the detail in an appendix to the company's annual return.

Companies House has delegated authority to give notice to companies whose accounts appear to be defective. Companies House will pursue those companies that fail to comply with the notice or provide a satisfactory explanation.

If necessary, the Financial Reporting Review Panel (FRRP)—part of the Financial Reporting Council (FRC)—has delegated authority to apply for a court order requiring the directors of the company to prepare revised accounts or a revised report. If the company continues to contravene and is found guilty, the court could impose a fine.

Each case is dealt with on its merits and prosecution would only be used is cases of persistent and wilful failure to comply with the legislation. To date the FRRP has never had to apply to court for an order requiring revision of accounts or reports.

### Construction: Standards

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with interested parties on publicly-available specification (PAS91); when he expects PAS91 next to be reviewed; and if he will make a statement. [45863]

**Mr Prisk:** Standardisation of the prequalification process features frequently in my discussions with the construction industry, particularly with those bodies representing small firms in the sector. The National Specialist Contractors' Council estimate that completing multiple prequalification questionnaires costs the industry £250 million a year, much of which could be saved. The industry is very supportive of the PAS91 approach and is working with Government to ensure the standard is widely adopted. We would expect to review the standard early next year in the light of a year's experience of its use in the public sector and more widely.

### Departmental Billing

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in January and February 2011. [45077]

**Mr Davey:** Since May 2010 and in line with other Government Departments, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has recorded and published the proportion of invoices paid within five working days of receipt. BIS publishes this information at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/about/procurement/prompt-payment/bis-payment-performance

However, during January and February 2011, this Department paid 98.8% and 99.7% of invoices within 10 working days of receipt respectively. In the same period, this Department paid 95% and 96.5% of invoices within five working days.

### Departmental Buildings

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to reduce the size of his Department's estate; and if he will make a statement. [45891]

**Mr Davey:** The Government announced in spending review 2010 that as a first step to introducing a more co-ordinated approach to property management in the central civil office estate they would set up, through the Government Property Unit, Property Vehicles for the Central London and Bristol office estate from 2011/12.

Property Vehicles will be responsible for managing a more co-ordinated Government-wide approach to property. They will manage the estate strategically, achieving more efficient use of the property assets, as well as work with Departments to reduce their estates and maximise the commercial potential of their property portfolios.

Furthermore the Government announced this month a new system of National Property Controls across the central civil estate. These controls require Departments to adopt a common, disciplined commercial approach to the use of the estate. These build on the success of the Lease Moratorium introduced in May 2010, which to-date has reduced property costs by around £50 million.

### Departmental Offices

**Mr Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 736-37W, on departmental offices, if he will provide examples of *(a)* hard and *(b)* soft intelligence. [43384]

**Mr Prisk:** The Department's local offices will provide hard evidence such as analysis of external business surveys, public and official data. The soft evidence will be anecdotal information and feedback on business intentions and risks. This will be obtained through the teams' relationships with local stakeholders.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of written questions tabled to him for answer on a named day between 27 May 2010 and 9 March 2011 did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer. [46561]

**Mr Davey:** During the period 27 May 2010 to 9 March 2011, the Department received a total of 833 named day parliamentary questions.[1] Of these, 610 (73%) received a substantive reply on the date stipulated. BIS Ministers and officials attach high importance to answering named day PQs on the date specified, while noting the Government response to the then Procedure Committee's Report on Parliamentary Questions: Session 2008/09 [HC859] "The Government agrees that, where it is not possible to provide a full answer within the usual deadline, it will usually be preferable to provide the answer a few days late than to provide an incomplete answer".

[1] Including a few questions transferred to BIS from other Government Departments.

### Export Licences

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many strategic export licences have been granted in respect of exports to countries in the Middle East and North Africa since October 2010; and what the monetary value was of proposed exports under such licences. [45630]

**Mr Prisk:** This information will be published shortly as part of the Government's Annual and Quarterly reports on Strategic Export Controls. These reports contain detailed information on export licences issued, refused or revoked, by destination, including the overall value, type (e.g. Military, Other) and a summary of the items covered by these licences. They are available to view on the Strategic Export Controls: Reports and Statistics website at:

https://www.exportcontroldb.berr.gov.uk/eng/fox

Currently this includes information up to 30 September 2010. Information covering 1 October to 31 December 2010 will be published in April and information covering 1 January to 31 March will be published in July this year.

### Higher Education: Admissions

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether universities will be required to produce a separate access agreement with the Office for Fair Access for part-time students; and if he will make a statement. [46077]

**Mr Willetts:** Subject to parliamentary approval, we intend to regulate fees for students studying at least 25% of a full-time course. Once the legislation and regulations are in place, institutions wishing to charge fees for part-time courses above the basic level will require an access agreement—or a variation of an existing access agreement—approved by the Director of Fair Access covering those courses.

### Higher Education: Finance

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department provided funding for the 2010 survey of universities by Universities UK; and if he will make a statement. [R] [43883]

**Mr Willetts:** No funding was provided by this Department to Universities UK to undertake the survey of universities in 2010.

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings *(a)* the Minister with responsibility for and *(b)* officials working on higher education had with representatives of the Libyan Government between 2005 and 2010. [45769]

**Mr Willetts:** The former Member of Parliament for Harlow, the then Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education (Bill Rammell), met Dr Abd al-Salam al-Qallal, the Libyan Minister for Higher Education in Tripoli on 23 February 2006 to discuss UK-Libya education issues. He also met with Dr al-Rishi, the Libyan Minister for Expatriates, Migration and Refugee Affairs on 26 April 2007 about UK resident Libyan academics.

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to remove public funding for teaching and research from universities which accept donations from individuals and organisations associated with undemocratic regimes with poor records on human rights. [46052]

**Mr Willetts:** Universities are autonomous institutions and each will set its own standards for the acceptance of donations. As charities, all English universities should follow guidance on the receipt of donations from the Charity Commission and any additional guidance from the Higher Education Funding Council for England in its role as principal regulator under the Charities Act 2006.

The allocation of public funding for teaching and research is separate from the regulation of universities as donation-accepting charities and the Department has no plans to combine these functions.

### Higher Education: Part-Time Education

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to regulate the number of part-time students studying degrees at each higher education institution; and if he will make a statement. [45995]

**Mr Willetts:** I would refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 8 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1000W.

### Higher Education: Research

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what payments were made to each university by each research council in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [45996]

**Mr Willetts:** Between 2004/05 and 2008/09 the research councils provided £4,955,295,000 to higher education institutions (HEIs). A full breakdown by HEI, research council and year will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Higher Education: South East

**Alok Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of school leavers resident in *(a)* Reading West constituency, *(b)* Berkshire and *(c)* South East England entered university in each of the last 10 years. [46597]

**Mr Willetts:** The Department does not hold information on the proportion of school leavers resident in Reading West constituency, Berkshire and South East England who entered university in each of the last *10* years. The numbers of 18-year-old undergraduate entrants to UK higher education institutions are shown in the table as an alternative, for the academic years 2000/01 to 2009/10. Information for the 2010/11 academic year will become available from January 2012.

Equivalent figures for entrants to higher education courses at further education colleges are not available.

*18-year-old undergraduate entrants[1] from Reading West constituency, the county of Berkshire[2] and south-east England Government office region UK higher education institutions[3]. Academic years 2000/01 to 2009/10*

| *Academic year* | *Reading West* | *Berkshire* | *South-east* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2000/01 | 185 | 2,150 | 19,125 |
| 2001/02 | 195 | 2,205 | 19,780 |
| 2002/03 | 205 | 2,255 | 20,250 |
| 2003/04 | 200 | 2,160 | 20,335 |
| 2004/05 | 220 | 2,515 | 21,395 |
| 2005/06 | 245 | 2,660 | 24,720 |
| 2006/07 | 250 | 2,665 | 23,285 |
| 2007/08 | 220 | 2,595 | 23,630 |
| 2008/09 | 245 | 2,840 | 24,835 |
| 2009/10 | 260 | 2,920 | 25,485 |

[1] Covers entrants to full-time and part-time courses.

[2] Covers Bracknell Forest, Reading, Slough, West Berkshire, Windsor and Maidenhead, and Wokingham local authorities.

[3] Excludes the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.

*Notes:*

1. Figures in the table are on a HESA standard registration population basis and are rounded up or down to the nearest five.
2. Figures do not include entrants where the constituency, local authority and Government office region of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid postcode information.

*Source:*

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

### Arms Export Licensing

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what end-user guarantees are sought to ensure that arms manufactured in the UK are not used for internal repression in other countries. [45623]

**Mr Prisk:** All applications will continue to be carefully assessed against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria, taking into account the prevailing circumstances at the time of application and proposed end use. Furthermore, Standard Individual Export Licence Applications are supported by an end user undertaking that requires the end user to sign that the goods will be used for the purpose stated. In line with the criteria, export licences will not be issued where there is a clear risk that the export will be used for internal repression.

**Stephen McPartland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what definition his Department uses of Advanced Manufacturing. [45803]

**Mr Prisk:** The UK manufacturing sector comprises a wide range of different industries, technologies and activities. Increasingly, to be a successful manufacturer in the UK, businesses must compete in high value or value added markets and use advanced processes and machinery.

### New Businesses: Montgomeryshire

**Glyn Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the availability of credit to new businesses in Montgomeryshire; and what steps he is taking to increase this availability. [45962]

**Mr Prisk:** Data on bank lending to all companies, including Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and large companies, are collected and analysed by the Bank of England. Quarterly updates are made available through the Bank of England's "Trends in Lending" publication.

Current data shows that in Q4 of 2010, £28.5 billion gross were lent to UK businesses (including both SMEs and large companies). More information is available at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/other/monetary/trendsinlending.htm

The Government continue to monitor credit availability closely, and have conversations with both small business representatives and banks on this issue—through channels such as the Small Business Economic Forum.

Recently, as a result of talks with Government, the UK's five major banks have stated a capacity and willingness to lend £190 billion of new credit to business in 2011, including new businesses. This includes £76 billion of new lending to SMEs, which is a 15% increase on the amount lent in 2010. This is to ensure that UK businesses can access the finance they need to start and grow.

In addition, the Government continue to offer support via the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme to viable SMEs looking for bank finance but lacking track record or collateral to secure a normal commercial loan. To date, over £1.39 billion of loans have been offered to SMEs through the Enterprise Finance Guarantee, which has been extended to 2014-15, with £700 million available this year. This includes 12 loans with a total value of £1.44 million to businesses in the Montgomeryshire constituency.

### North West Regional Development Agency: Assets

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reasons his Department has not permitted the North West Regional Development Agency to publish its recommendations for the future ownership of its assets. [46307]

**Mr Prisk:** The Department has not instructed the North West Regional Development Agency, nor any other regional development agency (RDA), not to publish their recommendations for the future ownership of their assets or liabilities. All RDAs have prepared draft plans for disposals and transfers: the plans have been developed by the RDAs, approved by their boards, and are subject to Government approval. It is for RDAs to decide when and how to release the plans as they know which aspects of the plans are commercially sensitive, we support them in being as transparent as possible while protecting commercially sensitive material.

### Overseas Students: Fees and Charges

**Mr Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the fee income paid by non-UK students attending UK universities will be spent on promoting access under the proposals outlined by the Director General of the Office for Fair Access. [46667]

**Mr Willetts:** The Director of Fair Access has set out the details of his approach to monitoring and approving institutions' access agreements. He has given examples of the proportions of income from tuition charges that he may expect to see devoted to access measures, dependent on the circumstances of each institution. The access agreements that the Director may approve do not relate to tuition charge income derived from non-home and non-EU students.

### Arms Exports Licensing

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will consider the merits of introducing in the UK a system for parliamentary prior scrutiny of arms sales. [45512]

**Mr Prisk:** The overall framework of the UK export licensing system is closely scrutinised by the Committees on Arms Export Controls and detailed information about export licensing decisions is published in the Government's annual and quarterly reports on Strategic Export Controls. Given the volume of licences issued each year and the need for exporters to respond promptly to business opportunities, I do not think it would be practicable to have prior parliamentary scrutiny for arms export licensing decisions.

### Research: Finance

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has received any representations on the funding of research centres in British universities by individuals and organisations associated with undemocratic regimes in the middle east with poor records on human rights; and what assessment he has made of the effect on extremism on university campuses. [46070]

**Mr Willetts:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has not received any representations on the funding of research centres in British universities by individuals and organisations associated with undemocratic regimes in the middle east with poor records on human rights

Information on extremist activity on campuses where it is reported is not centrally collected by BIS. No assessment has been undertaken by BIS on any links between funding of research centres and the effect on extremism on campus.

### Research: Middle East

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many research centres in British universities with links to the middle east his predecessors *(a)* opened and *(b)* visited between 2005 and 2010. [46069]

**Mr Willetts:** The Department does not systematically collect information on the links to the middle east of research centres in British universities and so does not always know whether a research centre has any such links. Consequentially it does not know how many of the research centres opened or visited by Ministers had such links.

### Solar Power

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with their counterparts in the Department of Energy and Climate Change on (i) economic and (ii) employment opportunities in the solar photovoltaic sector; and if he will make a statement. [46357]

**Mr Prisk:** Department for Business, Innovation and Skills Ministers and I have not met with ministerial counterparts in the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) to discuss economic and employment opportunities in the photovoltaic sector in particular. However, Ministers and I have regular meetings with counterparts in the DECC and other Departments to discuss the move to a low carbon economy.

### Students: Fees and Charges

**Mr Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to monitor the numbers of people undertaking medical degrees following the increase in the upper limit on tuition fees; and if he will make a statement. [46510]

**Mr Willetts:** Currently the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service produces a regular summary of the trends in applications and acceptances for full-time undergraduate courses, including medicine. The Department plans to continue to monitor this information.

### Students: Finance

**Mr Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* levels of family income and *(b)* other criteria will determine whether students are eligible for bursaries or other financial assistance under the plans set out by the Director General of the Office for Fair Access. [46668]

**Mr Willetts:** It is for institutions themselves to determine the criteria they will use in making bursaries and other financial assistance available to their students. The Director of Fair Access has made clear in his guidance to institutions that he will normally expect such support to be targeted at the most disadvantaged students and that he will only take account in his assessment of access agreements of financial support directed at those entitled to state maintenance grants. In regard specifically to the new National Scholarship Programme, we have announced that only those with low family income below £25,000 a year should be considered, but institutions will decide who to help from this broad group according to their priorities for widening participation and access.

**Mr Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the advice given by the Office for Fair Access to universities on the provision of bursaries or other financial assistance to students from lower income families. [46670]

**Mr Willetts:** The guidance to institutions published on 8 March by the Director of Fair Access on the provision of bursaries and other financial assistance to students is consistent with that sent to the Director by Government Ministers on 10 February.

### Students: Loans

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many disputes between the Student Loans Company and individuals in *(a)* Bedford constituency, *(b)* the East of England and *(c)* England were pending a resolution in the latest period for which figures are available. [45392]

**Mr Willetts:** Disputes raised with the Student Loans Company (SLC) are dealt with under the SLC's complaints handling procedures. The SLC does not organise complaints figures by constituency or by region, but is able to identify complaints raised by individual Members of Parliament.

SLC records show my hon. Friend raised one complaint on behalf of his constituents in Bedford. This was dealt with in September 2010 and there are currently no cases known to be pending a resolution.

As of Wednesday 9 March, the latest date for which figures are available, a total of 156 complaints were awaiting a response from the SLC. The SLC is not readily able to say how many of these are in relation to English domiciled students.

### Supermarkets

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has assessed the effects on the independent retail sector of recent trends in the number of supermarket outlets in town and city centres. [45442]

**Mr Prisk:** The Department has made no such assessment. However research published by the Institute of Grocery Distribution (IGD) on 8 December 2010 stated that the UK grocery market was worth £150.8 billion for the calendar year 2010, an increase of 3.1% on 2009, and that 21p in every £1 spent on food and grocery is spent in convenience stores. The IGD also found that in 2009 there were 7,970 hypermarkets, supermarkets and superstores compared with 73,539 traditional retailers and convenience stores. Of the hypermarkets, supermarkets and superstores, 104 were independents. At the end of April 2010 there were 48,410 convenience stores in the UK, representing a year-on-year decrease of 0.5% over the latest 12 month period.

### Trade: Asia

**Neil Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of trends in trade with *(a)* India and *(b)* China; and if he will make a statement. [44897]

**Mr Prisk:** The following tables show recent trends in trade for India and China.

*India*

| *Goods* | *2000 (£ billion)* | *2010 (£ billion)* | *Percentage change* |
|---|---|---|---|
| UK exports | 2.1 | 4.1 | 98 |
| UK imports | 1.7 | 5.8 | 250 |

| *Services* | *2000 (£ billion)* | *2009 (£ billion)* | *Percentage change* |
|---|---|---|---|
| UK exports | 0.6 | 2.0 | 199 |
| UK imports | 0.7 | 1.7 | 198 |

*China*

| *Goods* | *2000 (£ billion)* | *2010 (£ billion)* | *Percentage change* |
|---|---|---|---|
| UK exports | 1.5 | 7.6 | 418 |
| UK imports | 4.8 | 30.4 | 530 |

| *Services* | *2000 (£ billion)* | *2009 (£ billion)* | *Percentage change* |
|---|---|---|---|
| UK exports | 0.4 | 2.4 | 429 |
| UK imports | 0.3 | 1.2 | 308 |

### TrustMark Scheme

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans his Department has for development and support of the TrustMark scheme; and if he will make a statement. [45812]

**Mr Prisk:** As the Minister for Employment Relations, Consumer and Postal Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Kingston and Surbiton (Mr Davey), said in the Westminster Hall debate on 9 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 103-04WH—TrustMark is an easy way for consumers to identify a builder who has agreed to abide by industry standards of competence and fair trading and to be independently inspected. The Government support the TrustMark Scheme as an effective way to raise industry standards and empower consumers to select with confidence a reputable tradesperson in the domestic repair, maintenance and improvement sector.

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with representatives of TrustMark since May 2010; what meetings officials in his Department have had to discuss the TrustMark scheme; and what further meetings are planned with TrustMark representatives. [45813]

**Mr Prisk:** No discussions have taken place between Trustmark and Ministers in the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) since May 2010. Officials in this Department have met Trustmark representatives on six occasions over this period.

BIS officials met with the Minister for Employment Relations, Consumer and Postal Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Kingston and Surbiton (Mr Davey), to discuss the TrustMark scheme on 26 January 2010.

BIS Ministers have not met with representatives of TrustMark (2005) Ltd during this period, but an introductory meeting between the Minister for Employment Relations, Consumer and Postal Affairs and Liz Male, the new chair of TrustMark (2005) Ltd, is planned for 21 March 2011.

Further routine meetings between TrustMark (2005) Ltd executives and officials are anticipated although no diary dates have been made.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Average Earnings

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent assessment he has made of the difference in the pay of high and low earners in the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector. [44911]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what recent assessment has been made of the difference in the pay between high and low earners in the (a) public and (b) private sector. (44911)

Levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom.

There is no single definition of high and low earners within ONS. However, for illustration, the table attached shows for 2010 the 95th and 5th percentiles for the gross weekly pay for full-time employees on adult rates of pay in the public and private sector, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence.

*Gross weekly pay for full-time employee jobs[1] in the public and private sector, 2010*

| | *Gross weekly pay (£)* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *5 percentile* | *95 percentile* | *Difference* |
| Public | 285 | 1,167 | 882 |
| Private | 232 | 1,337 | 1,105 |

[1] Full-time employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. As at April 2010.

*Source:*

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

### Bowel Cancer

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many patients were diagnosed with bowel cancer in each of the last 10 years. [46002]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many patients were diagnosed with bowel cancer in each of the last 10 years. [46002]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of bowel cancer (incidence) are for the year 2008. Please note that the number of cases may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

Table 1 provides the number of newly diagnosed cases of bowel cancer in England, in each year from 1999 to 2008.

The latest published figures on the incidence of bowel cancer in England can be found at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_health/mb1-39/mb1-no39-2008.pdf.

*Table 1. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of bowel cancer, persons, England, 1999 to 2008[1, 2, 3]*

| | *Persons* |
|---|---|
| 1999 | 29,051 |
| 2000 | 28,966 |
| 2001 | 28,246 |
| 2002 | 28,281 |
| 2003 | 28,564 |
| 2004 | 29,571 |
| 2005 | 30,175 |
| 2006 | 30,769 |
| 2007 | 31,273 |
| 2008 | 31,846 |

[1] Bowel cancer is another name for colorectal cancer. Both are coded as C18-C20 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

[2] Based on boundaries as of February 2011.

[3] Newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

### Public Houses: Manpower

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were employed in the *(a)* public house and beer sector in each of the last three years. [46430]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people were employed in the public house and beer industries in each of the last three years. (046430)

Annual statistics on the number of employees are published by ONS in its annual employment statistics from the Business Register Employment Survey (BRES). These figures detail the number of employees and exclude the self employed. An estimate of jobs, which includes self employed, would only be available through the Labour Force Survey but, due to BRES having a superior level of accuracy of industrial classification ONS has used the latter as its source for the information provided in the following table. The latest period to which figures are available is 2009.

Table 1 provides information showing the numbers of employees engaged in the industries 'manufacturing of beer' and 'public houses and bars' in Great Britain for 2008 and 2009.

*Table 1: Number of employees in Great Britain for defined industries*

| | | *Thousand* |
|---|---|---|
| | *Period* | |
| *5-digit standard industrial classification* | *2008* | *2009* |
| 11050: Manufacture of beer | 14.2 | 15.1 |
| 56302: Public houses and bars | 424.9 | 418.6 |
| Total | 439.0 | 433.6 |

### Voting Rights: Prisoners

**Robert Flello:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many applications for compensation his Department received in respect of prisoners claiming the right to vote in UK elections in each of the last five years; and how much has been paid in such compensation. [26968]

**Mr Harper** *[holding answer 29 November 2010]:* I have been asked to reply.

Data on the number of individual compensation claims received in the past five years are not compiled centrally.

However, around 585 prisoners made a claim in the domestic courts for compensation and/or a declaration that their rights were infringed by the fact that they were denied the right to vote in the May 2010 general election. The Government successfully applied to the High Court to strike these cases out, on the basis that damages cannot be awarded in the domestic courts under the Human Rights Act for a failure to introduce compatible legislation. The judgment was published on 18 February 2011.

In addition, UK prisoners have made claims to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. I understand that as at the beginning of February 2011, the European Court of Human Rights had received approximately 3,500 claims from UK prisoners unable to vote in elections. The Court has suspended consideration of these claims on the basis that the Government will implement the Hirst and Greens and MT judgments. The Government have sought to refer the Greens and MT judgment against the UK to the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights. If the Grand Chamber agrees to the referral, they will look again at the case and issue their own judgment. How the suspended claims are dealt with may depend on whether the Grand Chamber decides to accept the referral.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Tuesday 15 March 2011*

## SCOTLAND

### Devolution

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on the likely effect on the budget of the Scottish Parliament of the ending of end-year flexibility. [46783]

**Michael Moore:** I have regular discussions with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on a wide range of issues. The Government's priority is to deal with the deficit, and the end-year flexibility system has led to accumulated stocks of around £20 billion across the United Kingdom which would further increase the deficit if they were spent. The Government have therefore committed to abolish this system and to replace it with a new system which will provide flexibility while strengthening spending control. However, in recognition of the unique situation of the devolved Administrations, the Government have allowed Scotland to carry forward £130 million of agreed under spend from this year into next.

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether the ending of end-year flexibility has been discussed with the Scottish Government in the Joint Ministerial Committee. [46785]

**Michael Moore:** I can confirm that the matter was discussed at the last Joint Ministerial Committee (Domestic) on 2 February 2011.

### Firearms

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to his contribution of 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 716, on the Scotland Bill, whether BB guns fall within the definition of air weapons which the Scottish Parliament will have the power to ban under the provisions of the Scotland Bill. [45941]

**David Mundell:** The term 'BB gun' is understood to be a type of airgun which fires a BB projectile through a smoothbore barrel. Since their muzzle energy is commonly so low as not to be lethal, BB guns and airsoft guns do not generally fall within the subject-matter of the Firearms Acts.

The Scottish Parliament will be able to legislate in relation to BB guns following the passage of the Scotland Bill, subject to complying with any other relevant constraints on legislative competence.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

### Human Trafficking: Females

**Mr Bone:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on the number of women victims of human traffickers who are subsequently re-trafficked. [45533]

**Damian Green** *[holding answer 10 March 2011]*: I have been asked to reply.

I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on a range of trafficking issues.

We are committed to ensuring that victims of trafficking who voluntarily return to their home country get the support that they need to reintegrate effectively, and we work closely with non-governmental organisation (NGO) partners to achieve this.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Regulation

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what regulations his Department introduced between 2 February and 28 February 2011; [46965]

(2) what regulations his Department revoked between 2 February and 28 February 2011. [46966]

**Mr Swire:** My Department introduced no statutory instruments in the period between 2 February and 28 February 2011.

The Northern Ireland Office has responsibilities chiefly on constitutional, electoral and national security fields; they do not generally concern business regulation. My Department has not revoked any regulations during this period.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Oral Questions

**Duncan Hames:** To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many questions for oral answer were entered into the shuffle for each of the three most recent question times for each Government Department and other answering body; and if the Commission will make arrangements for the routine publication of these figures. [46624]

**John Thurso:** The number of questions for oral answer which were entered into the shuffle for each of the three most recent question times for each Government Department and other answering body is shown in the following table:

| *Department* | *Date of Question Time* | *Substantive* | *Topical* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Attorney-General | Tuesday 1 March | 21 | — | 21 |

| *Department* | *Date of Question Time* | *Substantive* | *Topical* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | Tuesday 18 January | 46 | — | 46 |
|  | Tuesday 30 November | 41 | — | 41 |
| Business, Innovation and Skills | Thursday 17 February | 145 | 130 | 275 |
|  | Thursday 13 January | 151 | 140 | 291 |
|  | Thursday 18 November | 145 | 115 | 260 |
| Cabinet Office | Wednesday 2 March | 119 | — | 119 |
|  | Wednesday 19 January | 127 | — | 127 |
|  | Wednesday 24 November | 114 | — | 114 |
| Church Commissioners, Public Accounts Committee and Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission | Tuesday 1 March | 14 | — | 14 |
|  | Tuesday 18 January | 15 | — | 15 |
|  | Tuesday 30 November | 15 | — | 15 |
| Communities and Local Government | Monday 28 February | 126 | 115 | 241 |
|  | Monday 17 January | 119 | 102 | 221 |
|  | Thursday 25 November | 154 | 133 | 287 |
| Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport | Thursday 3 March | 126 | 116 | 242 |
|  | Thursday 20 January | 122 | 105 | 227 |
|  | Monday 29 November | 114 | 94 | 208 |
| Defence | Monday 14 March | 118 | 115 | 233 |
|  | Monday 31 January | 129 | 126 | 255 |
|  | Monday 13 December | 139 | 127 | 266 |
| Deputy Prime Minister | Tuesday 1 March | 87 | 90 | 177 |
|  | Tuesday 18 January | 100 | 81 | 181 |
|  | Tuesday 30 November | 80 | 84 | 164 |
| Education | Monday 7 February | 165 | 152 | 317 |
|  | Monday 20 December | 130 | 119 | 249 |
|  | Monday 15 November | 169 | 148 | 317 |
| Energy and Climate Change | Thursday 10 February | 118 | 113 | 231 |
|  | Thursday 16 December | 80 | 70 | 150 |
|  | Thursday 11 November | 125 | 114 | 239 |
| Environment, Food and Rural Affairs | Thursday 3 February | 125 | 106 | 231 |
|  | Thursday 9 December | 117 | 105 | 222 |
|  | Thursday 4 November | 89 | 80 | 169 |
| Foreign and Commonwealth | Tuesday 1 February | 189 | 161 | 350 |
|  | Tuesday 14 December | 165 | 159 | 324 |
|  | Tuesday 9 November | 173 | 111 | 284 |
| Health | Tuesday 8 March | 155 | 132 | 287 |
|  | Tuesday 25 January | 159 | 152 | 311 |
|  | Tuesday 7 December | 162 | 154 | 316 |
| Home Office | Monday 7 March | 145 | 120 | 265 |
|  | Monday 24 January | 215 | 186 | 401 |
|  | Monday 6 December | 176 | 172 | 348 |
| International Development | Wednesday 16 February | 116 | — | 116 |
|  | Wednesday 12 January | 98 | — | 98 |
|  | Wednesday 17 November | 122 | — | 122 |
| Justice | Tuesday 15 February | 133 | 117 | 250 |
|  | Tuesday 11 January | 55 | 67 | 122 |
|  | Tuesday 23 November | 111 | 102 | 213 |
| Leader of the House, and House of Commons Commission | Thursday 3 March | 12 | — | 12 |
|  | Thursday 20 January | 28 | — | 28 |
|  | Monday 29 November | 10 | — | 10 |
| Northern Ireland | Wednesday 9 February | 67 | — | 67 |
|  | Wednesday 15 December | 25 | — | 25 |
|  | Wednesday 10 November | 41 | — | 41 |
| Prime Minister | Wednesday 9 March | 193 | — | 193 |
|  | Wednesday 2 March | 221 | — | 221 |
|  | Wednesday 16 February | 257 | — | 257 |

| Department | Date of Question Time | Substantive | Topical | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Scotland | Wednesday 9 March | 40 | — | 40 |
| | Wednesday 26 January | 44 | — | 44 |
| | Wednesday 1 December | 44 | — | 44 |
| Transport | Thursday 10 March | 135 | 130 | 265 |
| | Thursday 27 January | 147 | 117 | 264 |
| | Thursday 2 December | 96 | 72 | 168 |
| Treasury | Tuesday 8 February | 244 | 243 | 487 |
| | Tuesday 21 December | 125 | 125 | 250 |
| | Tuesday 16 November | 208 | 195 | 403 |
| Wales | Wednesday 2 February | 62 | — | 62 |
| | Wednesday 8 December | 45 | — | 45 |
| | Wednesday 3 November | 40 | — | 40 |
| Women and Equalities | Thursday 10 March | 88 | — | 88 |
| | Thursday 27 January | 99 | — | 99 |
| | Thursday 2 December | 95 | — | 95 |
| Work and Pensions | Monday 14 February | 148 | 144 | 292 |
| | Monday 10 January | 140 | 130 | 270 |
| | Monday 22 November | 156 | 122 | 278 |

For departmental question times lasting one hour, 25 substantive and 10 topical questions are drawn in the shuffle. Fewer questions are drawn for departments and other answering bodies with shorter question times. Fifteen questions are drawn for Prime Minister's Questions.

In response to the hon. Member's question the House of Commons Table Office will now provide weekly information on the Intranet on the number of hon. Members entered for each shuffle.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Arts: Finance

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effects on arts and cultural organisations of the reduction in levels of expenditure by local authorities. [46992]

**Mr Jeremy Hunt:** The Department's strategic bodies, the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, Arts Council England and English Heritage, are monitoring the effects of the local authority budget decisions on arts and cultural organisations. We continue to monitor and assess proposals being made about changes to library services across England. Consideration by the Secretary of State of whether or not any statutory powers should be used to assess an authority's compliance with the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 will be made on a case-by-case basis and after careful consideration of all relevant facts and local circumstances.

### BBC

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will meet the Chairman-designate of the BBC Trust to discuss the requirements of that post in respect of the oversight of BBC editorial guidelines relating to the UK's membership of the EU. [44955]

**Mr Jeremy Hunt:** I have no plans to do so.

The BBC's obligations on impartiality are set out in its charter and agreement. The details of the BBC charter and agreement can be found at:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbctrust/about/how_we_govern/charter_and_agreement/

The role specification makes clear that the chairman of the BBC Trust is required to ensure that

> "the BBC fulfils its responsibilities as outlined in the Royal Charter."

### Broadband

**Anna Soubry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will put in place mechanisms to ensure the delivery of high-quality on-demand content to households which do not wish or cannot afford to pay for subscription services. [21018]

**Mr Vaizey:** At present, we are satisfied with the current arrangements which place an obligation on public service broadcasters to make available high-quality content and much of this can be accessed on-demand without any extra charge. People also need access to the infrastructure to connect to on-demand services and we announced earlier this year our plans to create a broadband infrastructure for our country that meets the needs of all its citizens and businesses, and that will stand comparison with anywhere in the world.

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether tender documents for further contracts to provide high-speed broadband services are to be issued by individual local authorities. [46792]

**Mr Vaizey:** Local authorities in England will be the procuring authority. In Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland the respective devolved Administration will be co-ordinating local interest and determining the appropriate level of procurement.

### Broadband: Lancashire

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions Broadband Delivery UK has had with Lancashire county council on its issue of tender documents for a contract for the provision of high-speed broadband. [46970]

**Mr Vaizey:** Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) has had a number of discussions with Lancashire county council about their tender documents once we were contacted and told of their intention to issue them. BDUK expects Lancashire county council to be submitting a bid as part of the Wave 2 process which would be considered in the same way as any other bid received as part of this process.

### Broadcasting: Advertising

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the contribution of the broadcast advertising production sector to the economy. [32384]

**Mr Vaizey:** We do not hold data on the economic contribution of the broadcast advertising production sector. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport Creative Industries Economic Estimates provide estimates of the advertising sector as a whole and the latest data show that the advertising sector contributed 0.7% of total UK GVA in 2008.

### Departmental Conditions of Employment

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of his Department's adherence to each of the principles of good employment practice set out in the Cabinet Office publication Principles of Good Employment Practice. [42615]

**Mr Jeremy Hunt:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport recognises the importance and value of good employment practices in delivering public services. The voluntary Principles of Good Employment Practice are expected to be relevant in circumstances where Government's employees transfer to the contractor's work force. The principles were developed from discussions with trade unions and suppliers. In such circumstances, the Department should ensure that suppliers are aware of the principles and encourage application of the principles.

To date, no assessment has been made since the issue of Procurement Policy Note: The Withdrawal of the Two-Tier Code Information Note 22/10 (17 December 2010). There will be a review of the application of the new principles through the Public Services Forum (PSF), a national forum chaired by the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr Maude). The PSF brings together Government, public, private and voluntary sector employers and trade unions. The review will take place during 2011.

### Internet: Young People

**Gareth Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what consultation his Department is undertaking on steps to address levels of internet addiction among young people. [46418]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport will not be undertaking any such consultation.

### Olympic Games 2012: Berkshire

**Alok Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many contracts relating to the London 2012 Olympics have been awarded to businesses and organisations based in *(a)* Reading West constituency, *(b)* Reading and *(c)* Berkshire; and what the monetary value is of each such contract. [46634]

**Hugh Robertson:** Information on businesses in the south-east of England that have directly supplied the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is available in the business section of the London 2012 website at the following link:

www.london2012.com/get-involved/business-network/oda-suppliers/index.php

Currently 42 businesses have been awarded contracts in Berkshire, with an estimated value of £ 17,456,470.35; of these, eight contracts were awarded to businesses in Reading with a value of £ 12,670,055.40 and four to businesses in the Reading West constituency valuing £1,387,094.58. These figures only account for the contracts awarded by the ODA to its own top tier of contractors (tier one contractors). The figures do not include the value of contracts further down the supply chain, in tiers two, three and so on, which are awarded by the tier one contractors and not by the ODA. The ODA estimates that the total value of supply chain contracts to the regions runs into millions of pounds, but these are not public procurements and so the full value of contracts won across the UK is not captured by the figures provided. The ODA estimates that overall up to 50,000 contracts will be generated throughout its supply chains.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is a private company, as such we do not record details of contracts awarded by LOCOG.

## EDUCATION

### Academies

**Rehman Chishti:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) by what date he expects schools graded good by Ofsted to be able to apply for academy status; [39122]

(2) what criteria he plans to use to determine the schools which will be first to be invited to apply for academy status; [39121]

(3) what account he plans to take of the *(a)* contextual value added by and *(b)* the financial position of a school in determining which schools are next to be invited to apply for academy status. [39120]

**Mr Gibb:** We want to give all schools that wish to do so the opportunity to become academies. Schools rated as outstanding and schools rated as good with one or more outstanding features in their most recent Ofsted inspection can already apply to become an academy in their own right.

All schools can apply as part of a chain where at least one school in the chain is either outstanding or good with outstanding features. In addition to the Ofsted inspection, applications are considered according to a range of factors including whether there is a substantial budget deficit or plans to support a weaker school.

### Children: Disability

**Tristram Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding will be available to local authorities for the provision of disabled children's services in *(a)* 2011, *(b)* 2012 and *(c)* 2013. [27000]

**Sarah Teather:** We have announced that £800 million of funding will be provided to local authorities through the new early intervention grant (EIG) over the spending review period (£198 million in 2011-12; £202 million in 2012-13; £206 million in 2013-14; and £210 million in 2014-15).

The new early intervention grant (EIG) has been set up to provide funding to local authorities to support early intervention and preventative services for children, young people and their families. It is not ring fenced.

It will be for local authorities to determine how they use that resource to best effect, including what services would be funded for families with disabled children.

### Connexions: Finance

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department allocated to Connexions in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [40702]

**Mr Gibb:** The budget totals for Connexions are as follows:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| *(a)* 2008-09 | 468.732 |
| *(b)* 2009-10 | 466.732 |
| *(c)* 2010-11 | 466.732 |

### National Curriculum

**Stephen Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) which subjects will be considered under his Department's National Curriculum review; [33677]

(2) who he has appointed to lead his Department's reviews of each National Curriculum subject; [33678]

(3) what arrangements are in place to encourage members of the public to contribute to the National Curriculum review. [33679]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 18 January 2011]:* Details of the review of the National Curriculum, including its scope, timetable and how it will be led and managed, were given by the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend, in a written ministerial statement issued on 20 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 47WS. Further detail is available in the remit for the review which has been placed in the House Libraries.

### Education Maintenance Allowance

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 14 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 558W, on education maintenance allowance: Ashton-in-Makerfield, for what reason the education maintenance allowance was withdrawn before a full equality impact assessment was undertaken in respect of the replacement scheme. [41950]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* In reaching the decision to end the EMA scheme we focused on the evaluation evidence and other research, which indicates that EMA is not targeted on young people who most need financial support to enable them to participate in education.

Discussions on distributional impacts, including impacts on equality, informed the process for spending review discussions and decisions, and the Department for Education worked closely with HM Treasury to assess the impact on different sections of society.

We are replacing the education maintenance allowance with a new learner support fund so that we can target support more closely to those students facing genuine financial barriers to participation.

A full equality impact assessment for the introduction of the new learner support funding will be published in due course, once final arrangements for the operation of the new fund have been developed.

### Education Maintenance Allowance: Somerset

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students at Bridgwater college and Strode college *(a)* in total and *(b)* resident in Wells constituency receive weekly education maintenance allowance payments of (i) £10, (ii) £20 and (iii) £30. [39224]

**Mr Gibb:** This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for Wells with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

*Letter from Peter Lauener dated 14 February 2011:*

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ39224 that asked:

"How many students at Bridgwater College and Strode College (a) in total and (b) resident in Wells constituency receive weekly education maintenance allowance payments of (i) £10, (ii) £20 and (iii) £30."

Information on the number of young people who have received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available for upper tier local authorities but not by constituency.

EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

The table below shows as at 25 January 2011 the take-up for the 2010/11 academic year in total and broken down by payment bands for Bridgwater and Strode Colleges and Somerset Local Authority.

| *As at 25 January2011* | *EMA Take-up* | *£10* | *£20* | *£30* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bridgwater College | 1,862 | 141 (7.6%) | 200 (10.7%) | 1,521 (81.7%) |
| Strode College | 703 | 52 (7.4%) | 79 (11.2%) | 572 (81.4%) |
| Somerset LA | 5,870 | 508 (8.6%) | 644 (11%) | 4,718 (80.4%) |

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 is available on the YPLA website at the following address:

http://ema.ypla.gov.uk/resources/research/takeup/

## Education: Finance

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what purposes he has allocated funding from the public purse to *(a)* the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust and *(b)* the National College for School Leadership; and what tasks have been completed as a result of the provision of such funding. [40249]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 11 February 2011]:* The information is as follows:

*(a)* The Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) is an independent charity which derives its income from a range of sources. The Department has grant funded SSAT to support the Specialist Schools and Academies programmes. SSAT's work has included helping schools to meet the standards of the Specialist Schools programme and developing networks of specialist schools and academies. SSAT has also won a number of contracts from the Department in open competition. These relate mainly to the provision of school improvement services. Details of SSAT's income from all sources are available in SSAT's published accounts, which are available on the Charity Commission website.

*(b)* The National College website contains full details of its activities and funding in annual reports and accounts for current and previous years, see:

www.nationalcollege.org.uk

The college has three broad objectives: (i) to ensure a strong supply of school leaders; (ii) to improve the quality of school and children's centre leadership, and (iii) to identify and deploy the best leaders to support struggling schools. Evidence shows that:

150,000 leaders have participated in the college's programmes since 2000, and that

schools which engage in the college's programmes improve faster than those that do not, with the most engaged schools improving fastest.

## Employment Schemes: Young People

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department allocated to the January Guarantee in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [40701]

**Mr Gibb:** The January Guarantee offered any 16 or 17-year-old who was not in education, employment or training (NEET) in January 2010 a place on an Entry to Employment Programme. The January Guarantee did not operate in any other year.

£40 million was made available to deliver the January Guarantee. This included funding for 10,000 additional Entry to Employment places, education maintenance allowance for those young people who were eligible, and advice and support for young people to find a suitable opportunity. The funding covered the costs incurred in both the 2009-10 and 2010-11 financial years; for example, where young people were offered places that continued beyond March 2010.

## Free Schools

**Andy Burnham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many staff of his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* in full-time equivalent terms are assigned to the Free Schools Team; [37910]

(2) how many civil servants in his Department have been allocated to work on free schools. [37969]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 3 February 2011]:* As at 15 February 2011, there are 97 people employed in the Free Schools Group. This is equivalent to 94.92 FTE (full-time equivalent) people.

## Further Education

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to increase the number of 14 and 15-year-olds taking further education courses; and if he will make a statement. [37037]

**Mr Gibb:** We expect the vast majority of 14 and 15-year-olds to follow the National Curriculum and take GCSEs and, where appropriate, other qualifications at level 2. In her report, published on 3 March, Professor Alison Wolf recommended that the Government make explicit the legal right of further education colleges to enrol young people under 16, and ensure that funding procedures make this practically possible. She also stressed the importance of a core academic programme for all young people to the age of 16, regardless of the type of educational institution they are attending. We are currently considering all of Professor Wolf's recommendations and will publish a Government response in the spring.

## Grammar Schools

**Jonathan Reynolds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of secondary school children who attend selective schools. [38009]

**Mr Gibb:** In 2010, there were 164 wholly selective secondary schools in England. The percentage of all state-funded secondary school pupils attending these schools was 4.9%.

## Members: Correspondence

**Mr Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of 13 December 2010 and 12 January 2011 on his constituent Miss Hannah Kelly. [42810]

**Tim Loughton** *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* The Minister of State for Children and Families, the hon. Member for Brent Central (Sarah Teather), replied on 5 March.

### Music and Mathematics

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on a potential link between participation in music lessons and attainment in mathematics by children and young people. [38929]

**Mr Gibb:** Research commissioned by the Department for Education from the Institute of Education shows that quality music education improves behaviour, attention and concentration and has a hugely positive effect on numeracy and language skills. From an analysis of available evidence the Institute of Education concluded that active engagement with music can improve mathematical performance. Ensuring all young people have the best possible music education will help the Government achieve our twin aims of driving up standards and reducing the attainment gap.

### Postgraduate Education: Finance

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he intends to inform providers of Postgraduate Certificate of Education courses of the *(a)* funding and *(b)* criteria for funding for the year beginning in September 2011. [33292]

**Mr Gibb:** The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), wrote to the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) on 31 January 2011 to notify them of the national initial teacher training place allocations and financial incentive arrangements for trainees for academic year 2011/12. We have confirmed that eligible graduates starting Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) courses in that academic year will receive £9,000 training bursaries in the subjects of physics, chemistry, engineering and mathematics and £6,000 bursaries in biology, combined/general science and modern foreign languages.

The TDA has now given initial teacher training providers the details of their training place allocations for 2011/12.

### Pre-school Education: Finance

**Mr Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* playgroups and *(b)* providers of early years care on their ability to provide each child with 15 hours of care a week; if he will assess the merits of allowing such providers to request top-up payments from parents to cover any additional costs; and if he will make a statement. [30595]

**Sarah Teather** *[holding answer 14 December 2010]:* Good quality early education helps tackle disadvantage and improve children's life chances. We announced in the spending review that funding has been protected so that all three and four-year-olds will continue to receive 15 hours per week of free nursery education, and that this will be extended to every disadvantaged two-year-old from 2013.

Fairness is at the heart of the Government's agenda. Local authorities have a statutory duty—under section 7 of the Childcare Act 2006—to secure nursery places free of charge, effectively prohibiting top-up fees. This ensures that there are no barriers to accessing the benefits of nursery education for all children, but particularly the most disadvantaged. Parents are free to purchase additional hours and services outside of the hours for which providers receive funding from local authorities.

Many providers up and down the country are offering an excellent service to parents and their children within existing funding levels. The Government are listening to the views of early years providers and their representative bodies concerning funding issues. The Government are seeking to improve the efficiency with which funding is distributed to providers, through the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) reforms, as well as reducing bureaucratic burdens on providers who deliver free nursery education. Many providers will also be benefiting from other support that local authorities provide for early learning and care. Providers will want to take into account this whole package of support before deciding whether delivering free places fits with their business model.

### Pupil Numbers: Home Education

**Pat Glass:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 26W, on home education: Durham, if he will put in place a mechanism to collect information on the number of home-schooled children. [43142]

**Mr Gibb:** We are still considering in detail our approach to home education and whether any changes need to be made to the existing arrangements.

### Pupils: Disadvantaged

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to the Young People's Learning Agency 16 - 19 Funding Statement, which areas will be entitled to the £150 million additional funding for young people in disadvantaged areas in 2011-12; and to how much funding each area will be entitled. [38658]

**Mr Gibb:** The £150 million of redirected funding will help increase the total funding in the national funding formula which addresses student deprivation to almost £770 million in 2011/12; an increase of more than one-third from 2010/11. This funding will be allocated through the disadvantage uplift and Additional Learner Support elements of the funding formula. It is not possible at present to say which geographical areas, or how much each area, will receive of this deprivation funding as this will not be known until the funding allocations for 2011/12 are finalised and communicated to providers by the end of March.

**Mr Raynsford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what consideration he has given to allocating funding through the pupil premium to schools in which a significant proportion of children are members of families whose leave to remain in the UK precludes them from recourse to public funds. [39443]

**Mr Gibb:** The deprivation pupil premium for 2011-12 will be allocated to local authorities and schools with pupils that are known to be eligible for free school meals as recorded on the January 2011 school census, pupil referral unit census and alternative provision census. Each pupil known to be eligible for free school meals will attract £430 of funding which will go to the school or academy, via the local authority or YPLA if the pupil is in a mainstream setting, or will be managed by the responsible local authority if the pupil is in a non-mainstream setting. We aim to extend the coverage of the pupil premium from 2012-13 onwards to pupils who have previously been known to be eligible for free school meals.

Children whose parents are in receipt of one of the following are entitled to receive free school meals and, as a result, will be eligible for the pupil premium:

Income support (IS)

Income based job seeker's allowance (IBJSA)

An income-related employment and support allowance

Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Child tax credit (provided they are not entitled to working tax credit) and have an annual income which from 6 April 2010 does not exceed £16,190 as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs[1]

Guarantee element of state pension credit.

Children who receive IS or IBJSA in their own right are also entitled to receive free school meals.

We have considered what other criteria might be used for allocating the pupil premium within the necessary timeframe. Determining eligibility for families who do not have recourse to public funds is not currently feasible due to legal and cost barriers in accessing data concerning such families in a useable format. If the family has no recourse to public funds and is unable to claim free school meals then they will not be eligible for the pupil premium.

## Pupils: Per Capita Costs

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the average level of funding per pupil in *(a)* Barnet local education authority area and *(b)* London in 2011-12. [40641]

**Mr Gibb:** In 2011-12, Barnet will receive a guaranteed unit of funding per pupil of £5,642, including £725 for specific grants that have been mainstreamed into the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The London average guaranteed unit of funding per pupil is £6,290.

The final DSG allocations for local authorities will be based on the January 2011 pupil count and will be published in summer 2011.

## Schools: Capital Investment

**Mr Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education which schools other than academies had rebuilding programmes *(a)* authorised and *(b)* funded since his statement to the House on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 47-73, and the publication of further details on 12 July 2010; and if he will include details for each non-academy school named in the further list published on 6 August 2010. [41215]

**Mr Gibb:** The question requests details of schools *(a)* authorised and *(b)* funded since the statement of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 47-73. Project authorisation is confirmed through the approval of the final business case, at which point a promissory note is issued. This is also the point at which the funding is finalised and agreed.

We have therefore defined *(a)* and *(b)* as the approval of schools at final business case after 5 July 2010 that have been given a commitment to fund through a promissory note.

There are 80 non-academy schools that have been given such approval and information is provided as follows. Some schools have been renamed since the publication of details on 12 July 2010. The table is correct as at 11 February 2011 and reflects the current name of each school.

| *Authority* | *School name* |
|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | Dagenham Park Church Of England School |
| Barking and Dagenham | Sydney Russell School |
| Barnsley | New School—Kingstone/Holgate |
| Barnsley | New School—Foulstone/Wombwell |
| Barnsley | St Michael's Faith Advanced Learning Centre |
| Birmingham | The International School and Community College East Birmingham |
| Birmingham | Park View Business and Enterprise School |
| Birmingham | Saltley School—A specialist science college |
| Blackburn | Witton Park High School |
| Blackburn | Blakewater College and Crosshill Special School |
| Blackpool | Highfield Humanities College |
| Blackpool | Mountford Centre |
| Blackpool | St Mary's Catholic College |
| Camden | South Camden Community |
| Camden | Swiss Cottage Special School |
| Derby City | Derby Moor |
| Derby City | Noel Baker |
| Derby City | St Martin's |
| Durham | St Bede's Catholic Comprehensive School and Byron College |
| Ealing | Cardinal Wiseman Roman Catholic School |
| Ealing | Dormers Wells High School |
| Greenwich | Plumstead Manor |
| Greenwich | Eltham Hill |
| Hackney | Haggerston |
| Hackney | Cardinal Pole (RC) |
| Hackney | Our Lady Convent |
| Hartlepool | Dyke House Sports and Technology College |
| Hertfordshire | Lonsdale School |
| Hertfordshire | Marriotts |
| Hertfordshire | The Noble School |
| Islington | Elizabeth Garrett Anderson |
| Islington | Islington Arts and Media |
| Knowsley | New SEN Facility to replace Springfield and Elms special Schools |
| Knowsley | Highfield SEN |
| Lambeth | Dunraven (Foundation Mixed) Secondary School |
| Lambeth | Lilian Bayliss |
| Lambeth | Norwood |
| Leeds | Corpus Christi (RC) + SILC |
| Leeds | Farnley Park High + SILC |
| Lewisham | Addey and Stanhope |
| Lewisham | Deptford Green |

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[1] Where a parent is entitled to working tax credit during the four-week period immediately after their employment ceases, or after they start to work less than 16 hours per week, their children are entitled to free school lunches.

| *Authority* | *School name* |
|---|---|
| Lewisham | Prendergast—Hilly Fields College |
| Lewisham | Prendergast—Vale College |
| Lewisham | Bonus Pastor RC |
| Lewisham | New ASD School (Pendragon) |
| Luton | Ashcroft High |
| Luton | Lealands |
| Manchester | Inclusion Centre(s)/PRU (Gorton EV, Chorlton, Burnage, Newall Green Inclusion Centres) |
| Middlesbrough | Oakfields Community School |
| Newham | Langdon |
| North Lincolnshire | FTC Performing Arts College |
| Oldham | New RC School (The Blessed John Henry Newman RC College) |
| Oldham | North Chadderton |
| Sandwell | Alexandra High |
| Sandwell | Batman's Hill PRU |
| Sandwell | North KS3 PRU |
| Sandwell | Oldbury |
| Sandwell | Wodensborough |
| Sheffield | City |
| Sheffield | Fir Vale |
| Sheffield | King Edward VII Lower |
| Sheffield | King Edward VII Upper |
| Sheffield | Stocksbridge |
| Somerset | Chilton Trinity |
| Somerset | Elmwood |
| Somerset | Robert Blake |
| Southwark | Sacred Heart—Southwark |
| Southwark | Spa |
| Southwark | St Thomas the Apostle College |
| St Helens | De La Salle School |
| St Helens | Rainford High Technology College |
| Stoke | Reach Short Stay School (Trent Vale) |
| Tower Hamlets | Bowden House |
| Tower Hamlets | PRU-Tower Hamlets |
| Tower Hamlets | Raines Foundation |
| Tower Hamlets | Swanlea |
| Westminster | College Park |
| Wolverhampton | Coppice Performing Arts School |
| Wolverhampton | Wednesfield High School |
| Wolverhampton | The Braybrook Centre |

## Schools: Finance

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education on what date he expects his Department's capital expenditure in schools from March 2012 to be published. [36422]

**Mr Gibb:** The Department expects to publish school capital allocations for 2012-13 by December. Details of allocations from 2012-13 will depend on the outcome of the Capital Review, but overall allocations are expected to be broadly in line with those for 2011-12.

**Mr Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much capital funding has been allocated by his Department for school building, repair and maintenance to each local authority area in each year from 2011-12 to 2015-16. [42850]

**Mr Gibb:** On 13 December 2010, the Secretary of State for Education announced over £2 billion of capital allocations to local authorities and schools for new pupil places and to address their capital maintenance needs in 2011-12. Details of these allocations by each local authority area can be found on the Department's website. Further allocations will be made for 2012-13 until 2014-15 in the light of the outcome of the capital review which the Secretary of State launched last year and which is expected to report shortly.

In addition to the funding already announced, funding will be provided, for example, for those Building Schools for the Future and academy projects that are continuing, to ensure the projects' completion.

## Schools: Vocational Guidance

**Ian Mearns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what mechanism he plans to establish to ensure that schools deliver a professional and individualised careers service to pupils seeking to enter higher education. [25142]

**Mr Hayes:** The coalition Government are committed to improving the quality and consistency of information for prospective university students. We want applicants to be able to easily understand what a course will cost, what it will contain and where it might lead. To ensure pupils make well-informed choices about their options at 18, they need access to impartial careers advice that is independent of any organisation with a vested interest and underpinned by objective information and data. That is why schools working in partnership with expert, independent careers advisers will be at the heart of our new arrangements for careers guidance. Both strong leadership and a work force of the highest calibre are needed to guarantee a consistent level of professional expertise. We are therefore working with the Careers Profession Alliance to establish common professional standards and a code of ethics and to ensure that careers qualifications include an appropriate focus on the essentials of careers guidance.

## Students: Finance

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average cost to the public purse of educating a pupil in *(a)* England and *(b)* London was in each of the last three years. [40420]

**Mr Gibb:** The available information is shown in the following table.

*Net school-based expenditure (excluding pre-primary) per pupil in England and local authorities in London from 2007-08 to 2009-10*

| | *Total school-based expenditure (excluding pre-primary) per pupil* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
| England | 4,210 | 4,460 | 4,610 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 4,710 | 4,920 | 5,010 |
| Barnet | 4,620 | 4,900 | 5,160 |
| Bexley | 4,180 | 4,520 | 4,590 |
| Brent | 4,990 | 5,350 | 5,460 |
| Bromley | 4,070 | 4,300 | 4,480 |
| Camden | 5,900 | 6,220 | 6,430 |
| City of London | 6,240 | 7,530 | 6,890 |
| Croydon | 4,340 | 4,620 | 4,750 |
| Ealing | 4,810 | 4,970 | 5,270 |

*Net school-based expenditure (excluding pre-primary) per pupil in England and local authorities in London from 2007-08 to 2009-10*

| | *Total school-based expenditure (excluding pre-primary) per pupil* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
| Enfield | 4,670 | 4,990 | 5,150 |
| Greenwich | 5,370 | 5,870 | 5,850 |
| Hackney | 5,890 | 6,470 | 6,490 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 5,550 | 5,820 | 6,060 |
| Haringey | 5,130 | 5,500 | 5,690 |
| Harrow | 4,560 | 4,770 | 4,940 |
| Havering | 4,320 | 4,450 | 4,620 |
| Hillingdon | 4,650 | 4,830 | 4,970 |
| Hounslow | 4,700 | 4,970 | 5,080 |
| Islington | 5,600 | 6,140 | 6,450 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 5,940 | 6,240 | 6,220 |
| Kingston-upon-Thames | 4,470 | 4,620 | 4,770 |
| Lambeth | 5,710 | 6,210 | 6,640 |
| Lewisham | 5,480 | 5,880 | 6,070 |
| Merton | 4,220 | 4,550 | 4,640 |
| Newham | 5,170 | 5,580 | 5,810 |
| Redbridge | 4,310 | 4,550 | 4,700 |
| Richmond-upon-Thames | 4,300 | 4,470 | 4,560 |
| Southwark | 5,860 | 6,160 | 6,390 |
| Sutton | 4,220 | 4,420 | 4,590 |
| Tower Hamlets | 6,540 | 6,990 | 7,070 |
| Waltham Forest | 4,870 | 5,100 | 5,290 |
| Wandsworth | 5,640 | 6,100 | 6,240 |
| Westminster | 5,460 | 5,780 | 5,890 |

*Notes:*

1. School-based expenditure includes only expenditure incurred directly by the schools. This includes the pay of teachers and school-based support staff, school premises costs, books and equipment, and certain other supplies and services, less any capital items funded from recurrent spending and income from sales, fees and charges and rents and rates. This excludes the central cost of support services such as home to school transport, local authority administration and the financing of capital expenditure.
2. Pupil numbers include only those pupils attending maintained establishments within each sector and are drawn from the DfE annual schools census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.
3. Financial information used in this answer is taken from the DfE section 251 outturn statements.
4. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 14 February 2011.

## Teachers: Training

**Ian Swales:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for in-school teacher training; and if he will take steps to safeguard the Graduate Teacher scheme in Tees Valley district. [38350]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 4 February 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Education wrote to the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) on 31 January 2011 to notify them of the national initial teacher training place targets for academic year 2011/12. The TDA has written to training providers with detailed allocations for 2011/12 including those for the Graduate Teacher Programme in the Tees Valley. These allocations have seen small increases for both the primary and secondary phases. As set out in the Schools White Paper 2010, 'The Importance of Teaching', our intention is that there should be an increasing emphasis on school-led training, for example through Teach First and Teaching Schools.

## Teaching Methods: Peterborough

**Mr Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the performance in *(a)* Peterborough and *(b)* other locations of the (i) Every Child Counts and (ii) Every Child a Reader programmes; and if he will make a statement. [46317]

**Mr Gibb:** We have not carried out analysis on a local authority basis of the Every Child a Reader (ECaR) and Every Child Counts (ECC) programmes.

Regular management information on the programmes is collected and shared by the Institute of Education and Edge Hill university, who deliver training for ECaR and ECC respectively. Edge Hill university has recently published its annual management report on ECC at:

http://www.edgehill.ac.uk/everychildcounts/general/Impact.html

Independent evaluations are currently under way for both programmes, with final reports expected to be with the Department by the end of March.

## Vocational Education Review

**Nic Dakin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to his letter of 9 September 2010 to Alison Wolf, what plans he has to publish Alison Wolf's interim report on vocational education. [34873]

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education by what date he expects the Wolf Review of vocational education to report. [41379]

**Mr Gibb:** The Wolf Review of Vocational Education reported on 3 March 2011. The Government are very grateful to Professor Wolf for such a valuable piece of work. We are now considering her recommendations and will publish a formal response this spring.

## Vocational Guidance

**Alison McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to monitor the quality of careers advice procured by schools for young people. [39554]

**Mr Gibb:** Through the Education Bill, schools will be placed under a duty to secure access to independent, impartial careers guidance for all pupils aged 13 to 16. A new national quality standard for careers guidance providers will serve as an indicator of quality for schools who will be free to determine how best to fulfil the new duty, based on their understanding of the needs of their pupils.

We will put in place a strong accountability system to ensure that schools are helping all their pupils to prepare for successful progress post-16. We are reforming performance tables to remove perverse incentives for schools to encourage pupils to pursue courses that are of little or no value. In addition, we are developing a Key Stage 4 Destination Measure to show young people and parents what a school's former pupils go on to do at age 17.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer question 42085, on regulations, tabled on 16 February 2011 for answer on 28 February 2011. [46989]

**Tim Loughton:** A response to the hon. Member's question was issued on 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 44-46W.

## JUSTICE

### Civil Proceedings: Legal Costs

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons he has not accepted the recommendations of Sir Rupert Jackson and others to abrogate the indemnity principle in response to the consultation on the Green Paper, Proposals for Reform of Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales; and if he will reverse his decision. [46207]

**Mr Djanogly:** As indicated in the Ministry of Justice consultation paper 'Proposals for Reform of Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations', published on 15 November 2010, the Government are not persuaded that it is necessary to abrogate the indemnity principle and are therefore not proposing any further work on it at this stage.

### Community Orders

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average hourly cost to the public purse is of supervising an individual on unpaid work on *(a)* Mondays to Fridays (i) during the day and (ii) during the evening, *(b)* Saturdays and *(c)* Sundays in respect of (A) group and (B) individual placements. [45965]

**Mr Blunt:** The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is developing systems to break down current expenditure on a service by service basis, including unpaid work (also known as community payback). Once the information has been reviewed and validated, we will then consider how best to use it to meet commitments under the Government's Transparency Agenda.

The NOMS Specification, Benchmarking and Costing (SBC) Programme is creating specifications to be used in commissioning the services NOMS funds. This includes work to support benchmarking by estimating how much it should cost to deliver each service.

Using fieldwork undertaken in 2009, the average approximate hourly cost of supervising an individual sentenced to unpaid work, excluding the cost of commencing the sentence, and rounded to the nearest pound, is estimated to be:

For group placements, £9 on weekdays (average of daytime and evenings) and £11 on weekends, and for individual placements, £5 per hour irrespective of the timing of the placement.

More information, including an explanation of how these figures are derived is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/directory-services.htm

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average hourly pay rate is of supervisors of unpaid work in *(a)* London and *(b)* the rest of England and Wales. [45966]

**Mr Blunt:** Probation staff are employed by the 35 probation trusts. As such, actual pay is set by a combination of a local trust's pay scale, and the level of experience of the individual member of staff.

Further, trusts decide which grades of staff are responsible for the delivery of unpaid work.

NOMS does not collect information on average pay rates for the supervision of unpaid work on a consistent basis.

### Criminal Injuries Compensation

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to bring forward proposals for reform of the criminal injuries compensation scheme. [46971]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme is currently subject to review.

We will bring forward proposals once the review has been concluded.

### Departmental Land

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will takes steps to reduce the size of his Department's estate; and if he will make a statement. [45893]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is reducing the size of its estate in order to provide flexibility in the way that people work and to help reduce costs. There are a number of projects currently under way, including:

reducing the size of the Department's Estate by decreasing the number of central London HQ buildings from 18 to 4;

the closure of HMP Lancaster Castle and HMP Ashwell and the change of use of HMP Morton Hall to an immigration removal centre (IRC);

the closure of 142 magistrates and county courts, which will significantly reduce the court service estate;

the reduction of the probation estate by taking advantage of lease breaks to exit properties and consolidate staff into a smaller number of buildings, and encouraging co-location of other related departments and flexible work space arrangements.

### Disability Living Allowance: Tribunals

**Alok Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many appeal tribunal cases relating to disability living allowance were heard in *(a)* Reading West constituency, *(b)* Reading and *(c)* Berkshire in each of the last 10 years. [46629]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Tribunals Service only holds data relating to its Social Security and Child Support (SSCS) jurisdiction from and including the 2007/8 business year. Prior to this date, the information was held on the SSCS's previous case management system and is no longer accessible to the Tribunals Service. The data from 2007-08 are recorded against the tribunal venue where an appeal was heard.

The number of DLA appeals heard in *(b)* Reading is shown in the following table. The number of appeals held in *(c)* Berkshire is the same as *(b)* as Reading is the only SSCS tribunal venue in this county.

Appeals for people living in Reading and in Berkshire are not necessarily heard in Reading.

*Disability living allowance cases heard in Reading*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| April 2007 | 33 |
| May 2007 | 45 |
| June 2007 | 51 |
| July 2007 | 31 |
| August 2007 | 26 |
| September 2007 | 34 |
| October 2007 | 21 |
| November 2007 | 27 |
| December 2007 | 22 |
| January 2008 | 28 |
| February 2008 | 21 |
| March 2008 | 22 |
| 2007-08 | 361 |
| | |
| April 2008 | 18 |
| May 2008 | 22 |
| June 2008 | 16 |
| July 2008 | 23 |
| August 2008 | 20 |
| September 2008 | 25 |
| October 2008 | 19 |
| November 2008 | 11 |
| December 2008 | 17 |
| January 2009 | 21 |
| February 2009 | 16 |
| March 2009 | 17 |
| 2008-09 | 225 |
| | |
| April 2009 | 16 |
| May 2009 | 25 |
| June 2009 | 14 |
| July 2009 | 17 |
| August 2009 | 17 |
| September 2009 | 26 |
| October 2009 | 22 |
| November 2009 | 42 |
| December 2009 | 25 |
| January 2010 | 26 |
| February 2010 | 24 |
| March 2010 | 37 |
| 2009-10 | 291 |
| | |
| April 10 | 2 |
| May 2010 | 13 |
| June 2010 | 16 |
| July 2010 | 20 |
| August 2010 | 19 |
| September 2010 | 32 |
| October 2010 | 11 |
| November 2010 | 16 |
| December 2010 | 22 |
| January 2011 | 23 |
| 2010-11 | 174 |

The Tribunals Service can provide data for the number of DLA appeals where the appellant gave an address in the Reading (RG) postcode area. It will take approximately one week for these data to be extracted from the database and when this information is complete, the data will be placed in the Library of the House.

## Employment Tribunals Service

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many employment tribunal cases were heard in each region between 2008 and 2010. [46020]

**Mr Djanogly:** The information in the following table shows the number of jurisdictional cases that were heard in each employment tribunal office and region for the complete financial years 2008-09, 2009-10 and quarters 1 and 2 of 2010-11 (April-September 2010). For the purposes of this question, the term 'hearing' includes case management discussions, pre-hearing reviews, merits hearings, review hearings and, where necessary, remedy hearings.

*Number of employment tribunal cases by region*

| | | | *Hearings* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Northern region* | | |
| | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11*[1] |
| *Midlands* | | | |
| Birmingham | 3,400 | 3,900 | 2,100 |
| Leicester[2] | 820 | 930 | 500 |
| Nottingham[2] | 1,300 | 1,100 | 120 |
| Shrewsbury | 720 | 270 | 13 |
| Area total | 6,200 | 6,300 | 2,800 |
| | | | |
| *North East and North West* | | | |
| Leeds | 2,200 | 2,400 | 1,200 |
| Liverpool | 1,300 | 1,300 | 630 |
| Manchester | 3,000 | 3,500 | 1,600 |
| Newcastle | 3,800 | 3,900 | 1,800 |
| Sheffield | 720 | 950 | 520 |
| Area total | 11,000 | 12,100 | 5,800 |
| | | | |
| *Scotland* | | | |
| Aberdeen | 290 | 390 | 220 |
| Dundee | 220 | 280 | 170 |
| Edinburgh | 550 | 710 | 370 |
| Glasgow | 1,700 | 1,900 | 1,000 |
| Area total | 2,800 | 3,300 | 1,800 |
| | | | |
| Regional total | 20,100 | 21,700 | 10,300 |

| | | | *Hearings* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Southern region* | | |
| | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11*[1] |
| *Central London* | | | |
| London Central | 3,500 | 3,600 | 1,800 |
| Area total | 3,500 | 3,600 | 1,800 |
| | | | |
| *Greater London and South East* | | | |
| Ashford | 960 | 1,100 | 620 |
| Bedford | 860 | 1,100 | 500 |
| Bury St Edmunds | 880 | 1,000 | 470 |
| London South | 2,700 | 2,900 | 1,500 |
| Reading | 1,000 | 1,300 | 740 |
| East London | 1,400 | 1,500 | 960 |
| Watford | 1,500 | 1,900 | 1,100 |
| Area total | 9,200 | 10,900 | 5,900 |

| | | | *Hearings* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Southern region* | | |
| | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11*[1] |
| *Wales and South West* | | | |
| Bristol | 1,300 | 1,700 | 940 |
| Wales | 1,300 | 1,900 | 1,100 |
| Exeter | 1,100 | 1,300 | 630 |
| Southampton | 1,600 | 1,700 | 1,100 |
| Area total | 5,300 | 6,600 | 3,700 |
| Regional total | 18,000 | 21,100 | 11,400 |
| GB total | 38,000 | 42,800 | 21,800 |

[1] 2010-11 data are for quarters 1 and 2 (April-September 2010)

[2] The figures provided may include certain discrepancies in respect of the Nottingham and Leicester offices because different databases were being used to collate data at different times.

*Rounding:*

Figures in the table are rounded independently and thus may not add to totals.
The following conventions have been used:
Values less than 100 remain as unit values;
Values from 100 to 999 are rounded to the nearest 10;
Values of 1,000 and over are rounded to the nearest 100.

*Source:*

ET Central database March 2011

## Magistrates Courts: Closures

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to lay before Parliament an Order to provide for the merging of magistrates benches in England. [47084]

**Mr Djanogly:** I expect to lay such an Order in late April.

## Members: Correspondence

**Tessa Jowell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to reply to the letter of 18 February 2011 from the right hon. Member for Dulwich and West Norwood, on retrospective limited compensation to victims of terrorism abroad, including Nigel Pike. [46422]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** I have received this correspondence and will reply shortly.

## Offenders: Berkshire

**Alok Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of offenders released from prison who are resident in *(a)* Reading West constituency, *(b)* Reading, *(c)* Berkshire and *(d)* England (i) entered employment and (ii) claimed out-of-work benefits within six months of release in each of the last 10 years. [46598]

**Mr Blunt:** Information on offenders' employment and benefit status post sentence is not collected centrally. The Ministry of Justice, the Department for Work and Pensions and HM Revenue and Customs have established a joint data sharing project to produce similar statistics to help policy development to improve employment outcomes and reduce reoffending.

The aim of this one-off project is to get a better understanding of reoffending and long-term outcomes for offenders by linking MoJ administrative data from the police national computer (PNC) extract and prisons and probation data to administrative data from DWP and HMRC on benefits and employment. This data share is currently developmental but it is hoped that it will be published and made available later in 2011.

## Prison Accommodation

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what size of prison population is required to trigger Operation Safeguard. [46972]

**Mr Blunt:** Operation Safeguard is required when the size or distribution of the prison population is such that it can no longer be managed within the available capacity.

Pressures in managing the population arise from a number of factors. These include the size of particular demographic sections of the prison population and capacity available to accommodate those segments, the geographic distribution of population between regions and NOMS ability to transfer prisoners to maximise the use of space, and whether there are any sudden local increases in population or losses of accommodation. As the total population approaches within approximately 1% of the prison estate's useable operational capacity, the risk of potentially requiring police cells under Operation Safeguard increases and more rigorous assessment of population pressures is required.

## Prisoners: Finance

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were on the *(a)* basic, *(b)* standard and *(c)* enhanced tier of the Incentives and Earned Privileges scheme (IEP) in each of the last five years; what the cost to the public purse was of operating the scheme in each such year; and how many prisoners were *(a)* not on, *(b)* ineligible for and *(c)* removed from the scheme in each such year. [46836]

**Mr Blunt:** The numbers of prisoners on each level of the Incentives and Earned Privileges scheme (IEPS) for the last five years is set out in the following table below. The data are drawn from different systems and also represent an average; therefore the figures do not precisely match population figures. However, they do provide an indication at national level of the operation of IEPS.

| | *Basic* | *Standard* | *Enhanced* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 1134 | 44121 | 28997 |
| 2006-07 | 1133 | 44808 | 30519 |
| 2007-08 | 1350 | 45510 | 31098 |
| 2008-09 | 1317 | 46103 | 32272 |
| 2009-10 | 1398 | 45375 | 34482 |

The national policy framework is set out in Prison Service Order (PSO) 4000 Incentives and Earned Privileges (available in the Library of the House). Prison governors have devolved responsibility to devise their own local scheme to meet the needs of the prison regime. The scheme is an integral part of prisoner management and the costs of operating it cannot be separately identified.

The IEPS applies to all prisoners but governors may exempt from the scheme prisoners who have progressed onto a structured resettlement programme for whom other forms of incentive will apply. No prisoners are removed from the scheme but they may have certain privileges removed for a specified period as a punishment.

### Prisoners: Gender Recognition

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 578W, on prisoners: gender recognition, which *(a)* internal and *(b)* external stakeholders were consulted on Prison Service Instruction 07/2011 on the care and management of transsexual prisoners; and how the external stakeholders were selected. [46343]

**Mr Blunt:** Operational staff and relevant policy teams within the National Offender Management Service were consulted on Prison Service Instruction 07/2011 on the care and management of transsexual prisoners. Officials within the Ministry of Justice, Home Office, Department of Health, and Government Equalities Office were also consulted.

The following external stakeholders were consulted: operators of contracted prisons; unions; HM Chief Inspector of Prisons; Equality and Human Rights Commission; Gender Trust; Beaumont Society.

The external stakeholders were either asked to be part of the consultation or were selected on the basis of potential interest in the Instruction.

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 578W, on prisoners: gender recognition, what plans he has for the implementation of Prison Service Instruction 07/2011 on the care and management of transsexual prisoners, including associated training for staff; and what timetable he has set for implementation. [46344]

**Mr Blunt:** Prison Service Instruction 07/2011 on the care and management of transsexual prisoners was issued on 2 March 2011. Establishments must comply with the instruction from 14 March 2011.

The instruction is intended to be self-explanatory and there will be no specific training about it for staff. The relevant policy teams at National Offender Management Service headquarters are available to provide advice. Establishments may identify a need for more general training about gender reassignment and the prevention of transphobia for staff working with transsexual prisoners and this will be provided by the relevant policy teams or sourced from external providers as necessary.

### Probation: Finance

**Helen Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the planned expenditure is for each probation trust in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11, *(c)* 2011-12, *(d)* 2012-13 and *(e)* 2013-14. [46459]

**Mr Blunt:** The following table provides expenditure for each probation trust/board in 2009-10 and forecast expenditure for 2010-11.

*£ million*

| *Area* | *Probation trust/ (board)* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|
| North East | Durham Tees Valley | 11 | 23 |
| | Teesside | 14 | [1]— |
| | Northumbria | 31 | 29 |
| Wales | Wales | 26 | 54 |
| | Dyfed Powys | 9 | [1]— |
| | Gwent | 12 | [1]— |
| | North Wales | 12 | [1]— |
| Yorks and Humberside | Humberside | 19 | 18 |
| | York and North Yorkshire | 10 | 10 |
| | South Yorkshire | 26 | 25 |
| | West Yorkshire | 44 | 42 |
| North West | Cheshire | 15 | 15 |
| | Cumbria | 9 | 9 |
| | Greater Manchester | 53 | 51 |
| | Lancashire | 24 | 23 |
| | Merseyside | 33 | 32 |
| West Midlands | Warwickshire | 7 | 7 |
| | West Mercia | 15 | 15 |
| | Staffordshire and West Midlands | 59 | 72 |
| | Staffordshire | 17 | [1]— |
| East of England | Bedfordshire | 10 | 9 |
| | Cambridgeshire | 10 | 10 |
| | Essex | 21 | 19 |
| | Hertfordshire | 12 | 11 |
| | Norfolk and Suffolk | 12 | 21 |
| | Suffolk | 11 | [1]4 |
| East Midlands | Derbyshire | 15 | 14 |
| | Leicestershire | 15 | 15 |
| | Lincolnshire | 9 | 9 |
| | Northamptonshire | 9 | 9 |
| | Nottinghamshire | 20 | 19 |
| South West | Avon and Somerset | 20 | 20 |
| | Devon and Cornwall | 21 | 19 |
| | Dorset | 10 | 9 |
| | Gloucestershire | 8 | 8 |
| | Wiltshire | 9 | 8 |
| London | London | 152 | 146 |
| South East | Hampshire | 25 | 25 |
| | Kent | 22 | 22 |
| | Sussex | 19 | [1]— |
| | Surrey and Sussex | 10 | 28 |
| | Thames Valley | 26 | 27 |
| | | 911 | 875 |

[1] Indicates a merged trust.

The National Offender Management Service is currently in the process of finalising budget allocations for 2011-12. Given the demanding settlement the department received we are continuing to finalise our savings plans for the remainder of the spending review period, once we have completed this process we will look to provide firm business group allocations for the future years of the SR period—this is likely to include the overall funding envelope for probation.

### Victims: Crime

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what arrangements are in place to provide support and advice to UK citizens who are the victims of crime in other EU member states; and if he will make a statement; [46974]

(2) what discussions he has had on support for victims of crime who are UK citizens travelling in other EU member states; and if he will make a statement. [46975]

**Mr Blunt:** The Ministry of Justice is the lead Department for the provision of support for within the UK and for EU victim policy. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office provide consular assistance to UK citizens who are the victims of crime in other EU member states.

There are two main pieces of European Union legislation in place in relation to support for victims of crime: the 2001 Framework Decision on the standing of victims in criminal proceedings, which requires member states to ensure a minimum level of support to victims irrespective of the member state in which they are and the 2004 directive on cross-border co-operation on criminal injuries compensation. The directive requires all member states to have a compensation scheme for victims of "intentional violent crime" and ensures that compensation is accessible regardless of where in the EU a person becomes a victim of crime by creating a system of co-operation between national authorities.

The Ministry of Justice is currently engaged in negotiations on a proposed directive to combat the sexual abuse, sexual exploitation of children and child pornography which includes proposals which provide for a range of support and assistance to address the need of child victims during and after criminal proceedings

The European Commission is due to propose a package of measures relating to victims of crime in May 2011. This will include a directive that will replace the 2001 Framework Decision. The Ministry of Justice responded to a consultation held by the European Commission to inform the content of the proposals and we are having preliminary discussions with our EU counterparts.

### Young Offender Institutions

**Karl Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of provision for 18 to 20-year-old young offenders in the secure estate; and if he will make a statement; [45762]

(2) whether he has any plans to assign any existing capacity within the young adult young offender institution secure estate for use by all adults; [45763]

(3) which young adult young offender institutions have been assigned to the adult secure estate in each of the last three years; [45764]

(4) what his policy is on young adult offenders in the secure estate. [45853]

**Mr Blunt:** Young adults sentenced to detention in a young offender institution (DYOI) are detained in young offender institutions (YOIs) as required by section 98 of the Powers of the Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000. These are normally self-contained but in some instances are situated within an adult prison with which they share the majority of their facilities. Whatever the location, young adults detained in YOIs have separate sleeping accommodation and are always managed in accordance with the YOI rules.

We are committed to retaining specific provision within the secure estate for young adult offenders. Our "Breaking the Cycle" Green Paper (consultation closed 4 March), sets out a broad reform agenda to drive improved results for all offenders in the secure estate, including young adults.

Prison capacity and the role and function of individual establishments are kept under review to ensure that the prison estate is best configured to meet population needs as effectively and efficiently as possible. Consideration of changes to the different roles of individual establishments within the overall estate is undertaken on an ongoing basis.

In the last three years, two establishments have been re-roled from young offender institutions to adult training prisons: YOIs Castington and Huntercombe were re-roled in 2010 following the decommissioning of places at these establishments by the Youth Justice Board.

### Youth Offending Teams

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the potential effect of reductions to youth offending team budgets on levels of reoffending and antisocial behaviour involving young people in each local authority area; and if he will make a statement. [46977]

**Mr Blunt:** No specific assessment has been made by central Government of the effect of potential budget reductions on youth reoffending and antisocial behaviour in each local authority area.

It is for local areas to use their resources in the most effective way to meet local priorities. The proposals set out in the Ministry of Justice Green Paper in December are intended to incentivise local authorities to take on fuller responsibility for young people in the justice system. Through payment by results mechanisms, we will reward those areas that invest in the kind of prevention and rehabilitation work that is effective at stopping offending.

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criteria he used to allocate resources for youth offending teams over the comprehensive spending review period; and if he will make a statement. [46978]

**Mr Djanogly:** The following criteria will be used for calculating funding for Youth Offending Teams in 2011-12.

The Youth Justice Board is in the process of consulting with funding Departments and Youth Offending Teams to establish a revised funding formula to be implemented from 2012-13.

*The Core Grant Formula*

The "core" funding pot is split into two: 5/90ths to an overall Welsh pot and 85/90ths to an English pot—this is referred to as the "Barnett" formula.

The "Funding Formulae" are then applied to allocate funding to English and Welsh YOTs. Two different formulas are used, one for England and one for Wales.

Each formula takes into account the following factors:

*For English YOTs:*

50% of the formula is based on six summary indicators taken from the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004, published by the Department for Communities and Local Government. The six indicators include the following:

Extent—Proportion of a YOT's population living in the wards which rank within the most deprived 10% of wards in the country.

Local Concentration—Local Concentration is the population weighted average of the ranks of a YOT's most deprived wards that contain exactly 10% of the YOT's population.

Average SOA Score—Population weighted average of the combined scores for the wards in a YOT.

Average SOA Rank—Population weighted average of the combined ranks for the wards in a YOT.

Number of Employment Deprived—The Employment Scale score is a count of the numbers of individuals experiencing employment deprivation.

Number of Income Deprived—The Income Scale score is a count of the numbers of individuals experiencing this deprivation.

40% of the formula is based on the 10 to 17-year-old population.

10% is based on geographical size of the area.

*For Welsh YOTs:*

40% of the formula is based on seven indicators taken from the Welsh Assembly Index of Multiple Deprivation 2005 published by the Welsh Assembly Government. These include income, employment, housing, access to services, health, environment and education.

50% of the formula is based on the 10 to 17-year-old population.

10% is based on YOT caseload data which are provided by YOTs and is the number of young offenders resident in each YOT area.

Funding is also given to YOTs for:

Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme.

Keeping Young People Engaged.

Welsh YOTs also receive the following funding:

"Splash" funding which covers prevention activities and is split equally between all 18 YOTs in Wales.

Substance misuse funding.

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what funding he has allocated to youth offending teams in each local authority area; and if he will make a statement. [46976]

**Mr Blunt:** Youth offending teams (YOTs) are yet to be formally notified of their funding allocations from central Government for 2011-12. Government Departments are in the process of finalising their funding contributions to the Youth Justice Board. This is expected within the next 14 days after which the Youth Justice Board will send formal notification to each YOT and their local authority colleagues.

Throughout the last six months, the Youth Justice Board have kept YOTs informed on progress with funding negotiations and, in the absence of final confirmation, each YOT was recently sent an indicative amount of the likely allocation to assist in their planning for the forthcoming financial year.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will reverse her decision to withdraw the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund. [46987]

**Richard Benyon:** The decision to withdraw the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) will not be reversed; the ALSF programme of work will indeed be discontinued after the financial year ending 31 March 2011. This decision was taken as part of the spending review settlement in October 2010 in a very tight spending context where we had to look very carefully across all the Department's priorities to see where we can make best use of available funds.

In 2011-12 the Department will fund a very modest and short-term legacy project to help ensure that the findings from the £60 million already invested in ALSF research and development are accessible to those who can put them into practice and achieve the potential improvements in environmental performance. This will involve bringing together material across numerous research reports and websites into a professional website tool run and maintained by the Minerals Industry Research Organisation.

### Biodiversity

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department spent on biodiversity conservation in *(a)* England and *(b)* the UK Overseas Territories in each of the last five years. [45990]

**Richard Benyon:** Details of expenditure on biodiversity conservation in England are provided in the following table. These figures represent DEFRA programme spend and spend by the wider DEFRA network but do not include staff costs. They also include total agri-environment scheme expenditure and the DEFRA biodiversity research programme, of which a major share is judged to be spent on biodiversity in England.

*Estimated public expenditure by DEFRA network organisations on biodiversity conservation in England*

| | | | | | *£ million* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
| DEFRA: Agri-environment schemes | 187.2 | 254.6 | 324.9 | 362.4 | 356.5 |
| *Other DEFRA expenditure:* | | | | | |
| Biodiversity programme | 0.1 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 2.8 | 3.2 |
| Research | 1.9 | 6.5 | 5.0 | 6.3 | 5.8 |
| Environment Agency | 10.5 | 11.6 | 7.3 | 23.5 | 25.5 |
| Forestry Commission | 17.7 | 22.8 | 28.1 | 33.3 | 32.0 |
| Natural England | 57.3 | 54.1 | 52.7 | 52.4 | 56.9 |
| Joint Nature Conservation Committee | 1.8 | 1.8 | 2.1 | 1.7 | 2.1 |
| DEFRA network total[1] | 276.6 | 354.0 | 422.3 | 482.6 | 481.9 |

[1] Totals may not add due to rounding.

Details of spending commitments on biodiversity conservation in the UK Overseas Territories are provided in the following table. These include commitments under the Darwin Initiative and support for projects to address invasive non-native species, in each of the last five financial years. They also include spend by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. They do not include spend by others, for example the governments of the Overseas Territories themselves, who are principally responsible for biodiversity conservation in their territories.

| | *Total (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 226,970 |
| 2006-07 | 211,130 |
| 2007-08 | 152,379 |
| 2008-09 | 178,527 |
| 2009-10 | 508,558 |

In addition, DEFRA funded biodiversity conservation projects in 2009 and 2010 in the UK Overseas Territories through the Flagship Species Fund amounting to approximately £10,000 and £28,000 respectively.

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when her Department plans to launch Round 18 of the Darwin Initiative; and whether a proportion of that fund will be reserved for the UK Overseas Territories. [45992]

**Richard Benyon:** We are aiming to launch Round 18 of the Darwin Initiative shortly. Details of the Round, including the proportion of the fund that may be earmarked for specific activities or specific geographical areas, are being developed.

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr Raab:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to the public purse was of the *(a)* procurement and *(b)* outsourcing function of (i) her Department and (ii) each (A) agency, (B) non-departmental public body and (C) non-ministerial department for which she is responsible in the last financial year for which figures are available. [43950]

**Richard Benyon:** The following table shows the identified costs of the *(a)* procurement and *(b)* outsourcing functions for the fiscal year 2009-10.

| *Organisation* | *Cost of procurement function 2009-10 (£)* | *Notes* | *Cost of outsourcing function 2009-10* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Core DEFRA | 4,362,890.00 | — | The costs in 2009-10 varied through the year as additional resources were used for periods to aid contract renegotiation. Since the signing of a new contract, overall staff numbers have significantly decreased. The ICT outsourcing contract includes providing a range of services to a number of the Departments ALBs as well as core DEFRA. |
| Food and Environment Research Agency | 288,000.00 | — | n/a |
| Rural Payments Agency | 688,000.00 | — | n/a |
| Veterinary Medicines Directorate | — | Nil. VMD has no separate procurement function. Procurement is part of the role of a number of VMD staff but we do not separately capture time spent on this activity. | n/a |
| Animal Health Agency | — | Nil. Core DEFRA procure on behalf of Animal Health. | n/a |
| Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science | 34,367.00 | — | n/a |
| Marine Management Organisation | 164,000.00 | The procurement function was fulfilled by one HQ and nine coastal administrators along with support by the shared services department SSD of DEFRA. | n/a |
| Veterinary Laboratories Agency | 149,000.00 | — | n/a |
| British Waterways | — | Nil. British Waterways is moving from a public corporation to charitable status in 2012. | n/a |
| Forestry Commission | 131,151.90 | 2009-10—the Forestry Commission England (a non-ministerial Department) | n/a |
| Environment Agency | 4,000,000.00 | This excludes Wales Procurement and ICT Commercial costs. | The EA does not have a separate outsource function as this activity is delivered by procurement. |
| Gangmasters Licensing Authority | — | The size of the GLA means that it has no dedicated procurement function. | n/a |
| Joint Nature Conservation Committee | 85,000.00 | — | n/a |
| National Forest | — | Nil. The size of the National Forest Company means that it has no dedicated procurement function. | n/a |
| Natural England | 919,000.00 | Natural England's Procurement Function undertakes all procurement activity which includes any outsourcing; therefore there is no separate Outsourcing Function. | n/a |

| *Organisation* | *Cost of procurement function 2009-10 (£)* | *Notes* | *Cost of outsourcing function 2009-10* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Royal Botanic Gardens Kew | — | During 2009-10 procurement was undertaken by existing Kew staff completing other tasks. With effect from 1 February 2011 the procurement activities for Kew has now transferred to core DEFRA. | n/a |
| Sustainable Development Commission | 59,635.00 | — | n/a |

n/a = Not applicable.

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which procurement projects engaged upon by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each non-departmental public body and agency for which she is responsible had a designated senior responsible owner in the latest period for which figures are available; and on what date each officer was appointed in each such case. [45560]

**Richard Benyon:** The Department, its agencies and non-departmental bodies undertake many projects, many of which may have a procurement requirement. In the core Department, the agencies and non-departmental public bodies, most of these have no central record of all these projects and the related procurements and therefore no central record of all designated senior responsible owners. To compile such a list would incur a disproportionate cost.

Some areas have processes that do allow some collection of data on designated senior responsible owners where the value of the requirement is significant. An example is:

> Natural England appointed an SRO for the one procurement project identified over £10 million. The SRO was an executive director and was appointed on 10 March 2009. The contract was awarded on 1 August 2010. Natural England had no other projects over £10 million during the reporting period. Natural England's project management procedures require that a role equivalent to an SRO is appointed for all projects and the seniority of the person fulfilling the role is determined by our financial scheme of delegation.

The Department, its agencies and non-departmental bodies use formal project management techniques and processes to manage most of its projects and the assignment of a senior responsible owner, who may or may not be dedicated to the project, is determined by the estimated value, complexity and delivery requirements of the project. In all cases, projects have designated management to lead all requirements and where procurement is necessary, the skills of professional procurement staff in each of the areas will be sought and used as appropriate.

### Forests

**Julian Sturdy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criteria she proposes to use to determine membership of the Forestry Expert Review Panel. [45755]

**Mr Paice:** The panel's membership is still being considered. It will include representatives of key environmental and access organisations, alongside representatives of the forestry industry. It will need to draw on a broad range of expertise to inform its work.

**Mr Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what process she plans to follow to establish an independent forest advisory panel; and what timetable she has set for this process. [46090]

**Mr Paice:** The panel's membership is still being considered. It will include representatives of key environmental and access organisations, alongside representatives of the forestry industry and will need to draw on a broad range of expertise to inform its work. We will make an announcement on the panel's composition as soon as possible and anticipate that the panel will report its findings in the autumn.

### Natural England

**Oliver Colvile:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her Department's policy is on the use of powers of guidance and direction in sections 15 and 16 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. [45756]

**Richard Benyon:** Ministerial powers of guidance and direction in relation to Natural England were included in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 in accordance with Cabinet Office guidance.

The Department issued "Statutory guidance for Natural England on regional planning and associated matters", as required by section 15(1) of the NERC Act in March 2007. Up to the present time, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the right hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), has not considered that either statutory guidance to Natural England under section 15(2), or a direction under section 16, is required.

**Oliver Colvile:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many occasions her Department's and Natural England's Technical Advice Customers Group has met since 1 January 2008. [45757]

**Richard Benyon:** In 2006, arrangements were put in place to ensure continued access to the types of technical advice provided to DEFRA (and other Government Departments) by the three predecessor bodies to Natural England, following the vesting of Natural England. The Technical Advice Customers Group was established to review these arrangements, and met a number of times in the early years of Natural England's operation. It has met twice since 1 January 2008. The last meeting of the group, in 2008, concluded that provision of technical advice was working well and could in future be delivered through existing planning and management channels between DEFRA and Natural England.

**Oliver Colvile:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* the Permanent Secretary and *(c)* the chief scientific adviser to her Department have had with Natural England on the practice of Natural England in (i) assuring the quality of its evidence and advice to her Department and (ii) recording and retaining audit trails of evidence and advice provided to her Department. [45986]

**Richard Benyon:** There have been no direct discussions recently between Ministers or the Permanent Secretary and Natural England regarding processes for assuring the quality of its evidence and advice to DEFRA, or recording and retaining audit trails of such evidence and advice.

The chief scientific adviser (CSA) has periodic meetings with Natural England's executive director for Science and Evidence. During some recent meetings, quality assuring evidence and advice and audit trails have been discussed. The CSA has also met Natural England's chief executive and officials to discuss similar issues regarding evidence and advice relating to the identification of candidate marine Special Areas of Conservation.

**Oliver Colvile:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance her Department has issued to Natural England on *(a)* good practice in (i) provision of advice and evidence and (ii) measures for the recording of evidence and analysis provided to her Department and *(b)* the process for designation of marine protected areas. [45987]

**Richard Benyon:** DEFRA has not issued any specific guidance to Natural England regarding good practice in the provision of evidence and advice or measures for recording evidence and analysis.

There are a number of published guidelines covering various aspects of the use of scientific advice in policy making. The Government chief scientific adviser's Guidelines on the Use of Scientific and Engineering Advice in Policy Making[1] (updated 2010) are specifically targeted to Government Departments and provide general advice on good practice, including on how scientific and engineering advice should be sought and applied. They do not explicitly apply to non-departmental public bodies such as Natural England. Whether or not there are explicit requirements, the Government would expect Natural England to use good practice, as appropriate to their own purposes and procedures.

Guidance on the designation of European marine sites is provided by the European Commission with additional guidance produced by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

DEFRA has issued a guidance note on the proposed approach to the selection and designation of marine conservation zones under part 5 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009[2]. This was issued in draft in May 2009 and finalised in September 2010 following feedback from those using the advice. Guidance has also been provided on identifying possible management measures, ecosystem services and total economic valuation.

## Rivers: Closures

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many stretches of river in the East of England were closed by the Environment Agency for maintenance in each of the last three years; and what the length of closure was in each case. [45632]

**Richard Benyon:** The stretches of Environment Agency navigable rivers in East Anglia that were closed for maintenance over the past three years, and the duration of these closures, are outlined in the following table:

*East Anglian waterways reach closures*

| | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Number of reaches | 69 | 69 | 69 |
| Total reach days available (number x 365) | 25,185 | 25,185 | 25,185 |
| Reaches closed | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| Mean duration (days) | 46.3 | 25.0 | 8.2 |
| Total reach days closed | 185 | 50 | 41 |
| Closure percentage[1] | 0.7 | 0.2 | 0.2 |

[1] Closure percentage = total reach days closed/total reach days available percentage

These closures stop navigation within the reach, generally to ensure the safety of the public, staff or contractors while maintenance works are undertaken.

Individual locks are also closed for similar maintenance works. These closures mean that craft cannot navigate through the lock, but can still navigate in the reaches up and downstream of the lock. The locks on the Environment Agency navigable rivers in East Anglia that were closed for maintenance over the past three years, and the duration of these closures, are outlined in the following table:

*East Anglian waterways lock closures*

| | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Number of locks | 69 | 69 | 69 |
| Total lock days available (number x 365) | 25,185 | 25,185 | 25,185 |
| Locks closed | 15 | 9 | 24 |
| Mean duration (days) | 14.1 | 17.9 | 18.8 |
| Total lock days closed | 211 | 161 | 452 |
| Closure percentage[1] | 0.8 | 0.6 | 1.8 |

[1] Closure percentage = total lock days closed/total lock days available percentage

## Seas and Oceans: Environment Protection

**Oliver Colvile:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her Department's policy is on the *(a)* openness and *(b)* transparency of the process for designation of marine protected areas. [45872]

**Richard Benyon:** We expect a full and open public consultation to take place during the process for designation of marine protected areas. This will be expected to include the reasons for site selection and the evidence on which site selection decisions were made.

## Sewers: Private Sector

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will publish the responses to her Department's consultation on private sewer transfers; and if she will make a statement. [45414]

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[1] http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/bispartners/goscience/docs/g/10-669-gcsa-guidelines-scientific-engineering-advice-policy-making.pdf

[2] http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/marine/documents/guidance-note1.pdf

**Richard Benyon:** The Secretary of State for Environment, Foods and Rural Affairs will publish a summary of responses to the consultation in due course. 106 responses were received from 96 respondents covering a wide range of sectors. An analysis of the responses, together with an overview of feedback from the workshops that were undertaken to support the consultation, will be presented in the summary.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with Ofwat on the proposed transfer of private sewers to water companies. [45521]

**Richard Benyon:** DEFRA officials continue to meet regularly with Ofwat to discuss various aspects of the Government's proposals for the transfer of private sewers.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to transfer private sewers to water companies; and if she will make a statement. [46076]

**Richard Benyon:** The regulations to effect the transfer of private sewers are currently being considered in accordance with the Government's principles for better regulation. Following this they will need parliamentary approval before transfer can take place.

Subject to the regulations being approved, transfer is proposed to take place on 1 October 2011.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects the regulations for the transfer of private drains and sewers to come into force. [46315]

**Richard Benyon:** The regulations to effect the transfer of private sewers are currently being considered in accordance with the Government's principles for better regulation. Following this they will need parliamentary approval before transfer can take place. Subject to the regulations being approved, transfer is proposed to take place on 1 October 2011.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to lay before Parliament the regulations to authorise the transfer of private drains and sewers to statutory sewer companies. [46368]

**Richard Benyon:** I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave her on 3 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 517W.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to publish her proposals for the transfer of private drains and sewers to statutory sewer companies. [46520]

**Richard Benyon:** The consultation on draft regulations and proposals for schemes for the transfer of private sewers to water and sewerage companies in England and Wales was published on 26 August 2010. With regard to the timing of the proposed regulations, they are currently being considered in accordance with the Government's principles for better regulation. Following this they will need parliamentary approval before transfer can take place. Subject to the regulations being approved, transfer is proposed to take place on 1 October 2011.

## Slaughterhouses

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent research her Department has *(a)* evaluated and *(b)* commissioned on levels of pain and distress experienced during the slaughter process by animals (i) not stunned and (ii) stunned prior to slaughter. [45971]

**Mr Paice:** DEFRA and the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry commissioned and joint funded research to investigate the effects of slaughter by ventral neck incision on the EEG in calves (project number MH0129). This work commenced in January 2005 and the final report was published in the *New Zealand Veterinary Journal* in April 2009. This work indicates that the neck cut associated with religious slaughter evokes a pain response in anesthetised calves.

DEFRA has commissioned the following projects since the beginning of 2005 which relate to the pain and distress experienced by animals stunned prior to slaughter:

MH0128: Novel and humane gaseous killing methods for pigs;

MH0129: Investigation of the EEG effects-of-slaughter-by ventral-neck incision in calves: humane slaughter study;

MH0135: Containability and aversiveness of different gas mixtures used for the stunning of slaughter weight pigs;

MH0138: Reducing bird stress and discomfort on the poultry shackling line;

MH0145: Study to identify the welfare costs and benefits of existing and novel on-farm culling methods of poultry.

Details of all DEFRA R and D projects can be found by searching for the project code at:

http://randd.defra.gov.uk

DEFRA has not specifically evaluated any research on levels of pain and distress experienced during the slaughter process by animals stunned or not stunned prior to slaughter. However we do seek to ensure policy decisions reflect latest scientific evidence and will consider all relevant published research before final decisions are made. In addition the Farm Animal Welfare Council conducted a review of research when it prepared its reports on red and white meat slaughter in 2003 and 2009 respectively.

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on requiring the stunning of animals prior to slaughter. [45972]

**Mr Paice:** We would prefer to see all animals stunned before slaughter. However, religious slaughter (slaughter without prior stunning) is currently allowed in the UK in recognition of the religious beliefs of Muslim and Jewish faiths. This is consistent with the European directive 93/119/EC which permits an exemption from the requirement to stun animals for methods of slaughter required by certain religious rites.

In the UK slaughter without prior stunning can only be undertaken in a slaughterhouse. Schedule 12 of the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995 sets out the requirements in more detail, including conditions for restraint, handling, slaughter and minimum bleed-out times.

### Slaughterhouses: Standards

**Jack Lopresti:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to promote animal welfare standards in abattoirs. [46323]

**Mr Paice:** The Government encourage the highest standards of animal welfare at slaughter. Directive 93/119/EC on the protection of animals at the time of slaughter or killing has been implemented by The Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995, as amended. These regulations govern animal welfare at slaughter and are designed specifically to prevent cruelty or poor practice in slaughterhouses.

The regulations make it an offence to cause any animal avoidable excitement, pain or suffering at any time between its arrival at a slaughterhouse and when it is killed. In particular, animals must be stunned properly so that they are unconscious and unable to feel pain during the slaughter process unless the slaughter is carried out for meat for a religious purpose.

The regulations also require slaughterers to be licensed. The licensing process involves an assessment of competence by a veterinary surgeon to ensure that slaughterers can carry out their work effectively and competently.

Council Regulation 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at killing was made on 24 September 2009. This regulation will apply from 1 January 2013 and will replace Directive 93/119/EC. The new regulation introduces a number of additional requirements including a requirement that all slaughterhouses (above a minimum size) will have to appoint a specific person responsible for animal welfare and ensure their staff are properly trained and certified. The regulation also permits the use of national rules to maintain existing welfare protection where that is better than the minimum standards set out in the regulation. There will be full consultation on the way regulation 1099/2009 is implemented.

### Special Areas of Conservation

**Sheryll Murray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether she has any plans to seek independent external expert advice on the *(a)* processes, *(b)* evidence, *(c)* analysis and *(d)* advice provided by Natural England to inform her Department's decisions on candidate Special Areas of Conservation; [42162]

(2) whether her Department is assessing the scientific evidence used to inform the decision-making process in relation to any potential or candidate Special Areas of Conservation; and if she will make a statement. [42164]

**Richard Benyon:** Decisions to submit candidate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) to the European Commission are supported by scientific evidence and advice provided by our statutory nature conservation bodies following public consultation. To help inform DEFRA of this process, its chief scientific adviser is commissioning an independent case study review to look at some examples relating to the selection of candidate/possible SACs. The review will consider the following case studies: Lyme Bay and Torbay, and Prawle Point to Plymouth Sound and Eddystone candidate SACs, and Prawle Point to Start Point possible SAC. The case study review will look at the evidence, advice and processes, as well as the Government's evaluation of such information.

### Sustainable Development

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what policy outcomes to enhance sustainable development her Department *(a)* has developed and *(b)* plans to develop following the Green Breakfast meeting with ministerial colleagues she hosted on 8 March 2011; and if she will make a statement. [46054]

**Richard Benyon:** The Green Breakfast meeting is an informal working group, hosted by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. It considers practical issues related to Government's commitment to deliver sustainable growth. It also operates as a discussion forum for cross cutting issues such as sustainable development, and Ministers from the following Departments are invited to attend: DEFRA, DECC, BIS, UKTI, HMT, Cabinet Office, DFID, FCO, CLG and DfT.

Cabinet Committees remain the place for policy decisions to be made.

### Waste Management

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 520W, on waste management, which stakeholders *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials have met in connection with the review of waste policies. [45342]

**Richard Benyon** *[holding answer 10 March 2011]*: Ministers have engaged with a wide range of stakeholders through the ongoing review of waste policies, and are continuing to do so as the review progresses. This engagement includes meeting or visiting the following organisations:

Air Products
APS Salads
Asda
Association for Organics Recycling
Biffa
Biogen Greenfinch
British Retail Consortium
Campaign for Real Recycling
Centrol Recycling Group
Coca Cola Enterprises
Envac
Environment Agency
Environmental Services Association
Fareshare
Friends of the Earth
Graphite Resources
Green Alliance
Green-works
Hackney Council
Improvement and Efficiency South East
Ineos Bio
Kilfrost

Local Government Association
Ocado
Plastics 2020 Challenge consortium
Premier Waste
PYReco
Recresco Ltd
Richmondshire Council
Sita
Somerset waste partnerships
South Tyneside Council
Sustainable Resource Forum
Telford Hart
The Vine Project
Viridor
WRAP

Ministers have met representatives of other organisations in the margins of other events where discussion included the review of waste policies, but it is not possible to compile a complete list of such contact.

Officials from the Department have also met with a wide range of organisations regarding the ongoing review, both through speaking at a significant number of events and meetings with a broad range of stakeholders. This supports the input received to the review of waste policies through other mechanisms. The Department received 309 responses to its Call For Evidence for the review, which included 101 from local authorities, 57 from a wide range of businesses and 53 from private individuals. Copies of the responses to the Call for Evidence will be publicly available in DEFRA's Information Resource Centre until July 2011. Nearly 400 comments were posted on DEFRA's online discussion forum by individuals discussing waste policy, with approximately 1,500 individuals completing a short online survey.

### Water Charges

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to publish the consultation on the Walker review of charging and metering for water and sewerage services; and if she will make a statement. [46521]

**Richard Benyon:** In our programme for government we committed to examine the issues covered by the Walker review. We plan to consult on some of the key points raised this spring.

### Water Supply

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has had discussions with *(a)* Ofwat and *(b)* the Department of Energy and Climate Change on the potential for water companies to fund the marginal cost of delivering cold water efficiency measures so that they can be offered for free to householders as part of the Green Deal. [46351]

**Richard Benyon:** DEFRA has had discussions about the scope for water efficiency measures, both hot and cold, with both Ofwat and the Department of Energy and Climate Change. Advice on water efficiency measures will be offered as part of the overall Green Deal.

The 'golden rule' of the Green Deal is that expected financial savings from reduced energy use must be equal to or greater than the costs attached to the consumer's energy bill. Because cold water use does not affect a householder's energy use, cold water efficiency measures would not be eligible for Green Deal financing arrangements.

However, water companies can and do offer retrofit cold water efficiency measures. Such services could be delivered alongside Green Deal measures.

### Whales

**Julian Sturdy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps she has taken in relation to whaling; and if she will make a statement. [45864]

**Richard Benyon:** I attended the last annual International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting, to demonstrate our commitment to the work of the IWC and the importance that the UK Government and people attach to it. We worked hard with other member states to ensure that the EU took a strong, pro-conservation position and stood firm to ensure that the IWC moratorium on commercial whaling was not undermined.

Ahead of this year's IWC meeting, I plan to discuss our support for the moratorium on commercial whaling with a range of environmental and other organisations, and with anti-whaling countries.

DEFRA officials will be meeting the 25 EU IWC contracting Governments and other anti-whaling countries in the build-up to the 63rd International Whaling Commission annual meeting (IWC63).

We will also be working with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to raise the issue with key IWC members prior to IWC63, encouraging support for the moratorium and for the UK's position to ensure the long-term conservation and protection of whales.

### Whales: Japan

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her Japanese counterpart on whaling. [45508]

**Richard Benyon** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]*: The UK Government make their opposition to whaling known to Japan at every appropriate opportunity. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the right hon. Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), and other Ministers, including those from DEFRA, raised whaling with the Japanese Government on several occasions last year. Furthermore, I have written to my Japanese counterpart to express concern over whaling and, in particular, the wide-scale hunting of dolphins. Senior officials also regularly make representations on whaling with the Government of Japan, most recently in January 2011.

The Japanese Government are in no doubt as to the strength of feeling in this country about whaling, and the UK Government will continue to challenge Japan's position in the build up to this year's meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC63) in July.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Public Reading: Bills

**Natascha Engel:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) who will be responsible for operating the dedicated website for public reading stage of Bills; how many people will operate the website; and what budget has been established for the website; [41657]

(2) what progress he has made on the establishment of a dedicated website to take online comments from members of the public on proposed legislation. [41664]

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** On 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 73WS, I announced the launch of a website that allowed the public to comment on the Protection of Freedoms Bill online, before the House of Commons commenced its consideration at Second Reading:

www.publicreadingstage.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

This is a pilot website and decisions about the operation of any dedicated public reading website will be taken, in light of this experience, by the Leader of the House of Commons in consultation with ministerial colleagues.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what new capabilities he expects to be provided to British troops in Afghanistan as a consequence of the funding announced on 10 June 2010 to help troops counter improvised explosive devices. [45787]

**Dr Fox:** The allocation of up to an additional £67 million announced by the Prime Minister on 10 June 2010 is allowing us to equip a significant increase in the number of specialist counter-improvised explosive device (C-IED) teams in theatre. The additional capabilities include more protected vehicles and more specialist explosive ordnance disposal and search equipment including remote control vehicles, for use by our C-IED teams, and enhancements to our military working dog capability; these, and enhancements to other critical capabilities, will make a considerable contribution to operational capability, increase the protection available to our armed forces, and enhance their ability to defeat the IED threat.

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to encourage the government of Afghanistan to record and report the number of deaths in the conflict in that country in each month. [45809]

**Dr Fox:** I regularly hold discussions with members of the Afghan Government on a number of issues including fatalities.

United Nations Assistance in Mission Afghanistan in conjunction with the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission currently release bi-annual reports on civilian casualties in Afghanistan and individual ISAF troop contributing nations regularly report fatalities among their own armed forces.

I believe this is an appropriate approach to what is a sensitive and complex issue.

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will make it his policy to place in the Library at the time of making his quarterly oral statement on Afghanistan monthly estimates of the number of fatalities among ISAF-trained Afghan National Army personnel who were present for duty independently of ISAF troops and his assessment of the extent to which the number of known fatalities reflects actual fatalities; [45810]

(2) if he will present information on *(a)* the known number and *(b)* his estimate of the total number of fatalities among ISAF-trained Afghan National Army personnel who were present for duty alongside ISAF troops at the time of each future quarterly oral statement on Afghanistan; [45867]

(3) if he will present information on *(a)* the known number and *(b)* his estimate of the total number of fatalities among ISAF-trained Afghan National Army personnel who were present for duty alongside UK troops at the time of each future quarterly oral statement on Afghanistan. [45868]

**Dr Fox:** This is a matter for the Government of Afghanistan. We do not hold information on the number of Afghan National Security Forces fatalities.

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to place in the Library at the time of making his quarterly Oral Statement on Afghanistan cumulative monthly estimates of *(a)* the number of, *(b)* the number of fatalities among and *(c)* the number present for duty (i) alongside ISAF troops, (ii) alongside UK troops and (iii) independent of ISAF troops of ISAF-trained Afghan National Army personnel. [45811]

**Dr Fox:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer the Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans, my right hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Robathan) gave on 17 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 914W.

The Ministry of Defence only holds data on the number of Afghan National Army personnel present for duty within the Task Force Helmand area of operations.

We do not hold information on the number of fatalities in the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) as it is a matter for the Government of Afghanistan.

The development of the ANSF is a key element in delivering our national security objectives in Afghanistan. Responsibility for the Government's quarterly oral statement on Afghanistan rotates between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development. Information on the development of the ANSF will continue to be given in the Government's monthly written statements on Afghanistan, and will be included in quarterly oral statements as appropriate.

### Air Force: Military Bases

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 802W, on air force: military bases, if he will place in the Library a copy of the study into the UK Military Emergency Diversion Aerodrome capability. [45865]

**Mr Robathan:** A copy of the document will be placed in the Library of the House.

## Ammunition

**Dr Huppert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the shelf life of 120 mm Charm 3 APFSDS L27 rounds. [46047]

**Peter Luff:** All stocks of the 120 mm Charm 3 APFSDS L27 round are currently held in storage. In these controlled conditions, the L27 round has a five year shelf life.

**Dr Huppert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has assessed the suitability of the use of the L18 charge together with the L27 propellant charge. [46049]

**Peter Luff:** We are currently assessing whether the L18 charge could be used in conjunction with the L27 round, but we have yet to reach any conclusions.

## Armed Forces

**Oliver Colvile:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for restructuring of the armed forces after the date of withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan. [45871]

**Dr Fox:** The Strategic Defence and Security Review identifies the armed forces we believe we will need over the text 10 years, and the restructuring required to deliver them. It has deliberately focussed on the decisions that need to be taken in the next four years, and left to 2015 those decisions that can better be taken in the light of further experience in Afghanistan and developments in the wider economic situation.

## Armed Forces: Allowances

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 8 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 126W, on armed forces: pay, how many members of the armed forces have informed their chain of command that they believe they will be placed in financial difficulty by recent changes to their allowances. [41787]

**Mr Robathan:** The information requested is not held. Service personnel are encouraged to contact their chain of command when they face financial difficulties, whatever the reason for those difficulties. Commanding officers are aware that recent changes to the pay and allowance system may require personnel to make some adjustments to their financial affairs and at least three months' notice was given to personnel before any measures came into effect to give them the time to do so.

General advice on debt is available to personnel at all levels, and includes written guides, financial expertise of pay staff and service family organisations, as well as ensuring there are good links to national organisations such as the Citizens' Advice Bureau and Money Advisory Service.

## Armed Forces: Cancer

**Mr Donaldson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the incidence of (i) brain tumours and (ii) other *forms of cancer among* (A) armed forces personnel and (B) the civilian population. [46604]

**Mr Robathan** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence's Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) compare the mortality rates for in-service deaths due to cancer with those in the general UK population in the annual national statistic notice on deaths in the UK regular armed forces.

In addition, DASA provide the numbers of deaths due to cancers among veterans of the first Gulf war in the annual national statistic notice on the mortality of veterans of the first Gulf war. Overall figures and breakdowns by cancer site are provided. Mortality rates are compared to those in a comparison 'Era' cohort, consisting of individuals of a similar age, gender, service, regular/reservist status and rank who were in service on 1 January 1991 but did not deploy to the Gulf. The report does not currently compare cancers to the UK population.

The National Statistics on deaths in the UK regular armed forces and Gulf mortality are available on the DASA website

www.dasa.mod.uk

and the next release is due on 31 March 2011.

From April 2011, DASA will start a study to monitor mortality and cancer registrations of all UK personnel in service (including all reservists who deploy on operations) from 18 January 2003 until the draw down of troops in Afghanistan. The intention is to monitor the population for their lifetime and it will include the veteran population.

## Armed Forces: Housing

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the use of receipts from the sale of barracks for improvements to service accommodation. [45758]

**Mr Robathan:** In line with HM Treasury guidance, receipts retained by the Ministry of Defence from the sale of property are reinvested by the Department in key priorities, and form part of the Defence budget. In support of our servicemen and women more capital is generally invested each year in modernising the Defence estate than is generated by the sale of estate assets.

## Armed Forces: Redundancy

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of redundancies to arise from proposed changes to communications and logistics support to Headquarters Allied Rapid Reaction Corps; and whether this figure has been reckoned as the addition to or part of the 25,000 civilian staff redundancies already announced. [46286]

**Mr Robathan:** The strategic defence and security review white paper published in October 2010 outlined the requirement to restructure the Army and stated that the Army will

> 'rationalise our deployable headquarters by reducing the communications and logistics support to Headquarters Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) to reflect its static rather than mobile role'.

While organisational restructuring and reductions in military manpower are clearly linked it is incorrect to assume that because an organisation is rationalised the individuals in that organisation will be made redundant. When organisational change reduces the requirement for officers or soldiers, then the overall strength is reduced. Separate processes are used to determine how to effect that reduction and, therefore, which individuals will be affected. This means that the most appropriate individuals leave the service, not necessarily the ones who happen to be in an organisation at the time it is rationalised.

It is too early to say whether this restructuring will result in a surplus of civilian staff, but in the event of civilian staff redundancies resulting from this restructuring they will be scored as part of the 25,000 already announced.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the oral answer of 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 815, on the armed forces (redundancies), what criteria his Department used to determine which warrant officers were to have their contracts terminated. [46656]

**Mr Robathan:** The Army's versatile engagement long career and long service list is being reviewed against future requirements for such posts. As a result, those individuals on the list whose current contract was due to end between 31 March 2011 and 12 January 2012 were notified that they may not receive further extension of service once their current contract period ends. This is an interim planning measure until the completion of the review, which will confirm the numbers and skills required for the future.

These individuals are on individual contracts and are not being made redundant as part of the strategic defence and security review reductions to the armed forces.

### Armoured Fighting Vehicles

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding he plans to allocate to introducing the Future Rapid Effects System Utility Vehicle. [45900]

**Peter Luff:** The Utility Vehicle (UV) programme has not yet reached its main investment decision point. The Ministry of Defence does not publish the planned costs of programmes before this point. To do otherwise would potentially undermine our commercial position.

### Arms Trade

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department takes to *(a)* record and *(b)* monitor the subsequent use of arms systems and other weapons sold to foreign governments by UK companies. [46202]

**Mr Gerald Howarth:** The UK maintains a rigorous and transparent arms export control system, under which all export licence applications are assessed case by case against the Consolidated European Union and National Arms Exports Licensing Criteria.

UK end-use monitoring of UK-origin military goods takes place in three contexts. Firstly, information gathering takes place in making the case-by-case assessment of each licence application. This takes account of the past record of the proposed end-user. Secondly, there is detailed monitoring, review and reporting around incidents of concern, the results of which are factored into judgments about whether or not to revoke extant licences and issue new ones. Thirdly, there is general monitoring on a continuous basis, with information received in-country being fed back to the export licensing and other relevant Departments in London. Foreign and Commonwealth Office posts abroad play an active and vital role in monitoring.

### Army: Redundancy

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria his Department plans to use to determine which army personnel will be made redundant under its present programme of redundancies. [46460]

**Mr Robathan:** I refer the right hon. Member to the statement given by the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), on 1 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 21-22WS, on the armed forces redundancy programme.

The Army will be in a position to confirm the criteria by which Army personnel will be made redundant under its present programme of redundancies on 4 April 2011.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he anticipates redundancies from the conversion of the second operational divisional headquarters to a force preparation role. [46471]

**Mr Robathan:** The strategic defence and security review White Paper published in October 2010 outlined the requirement to restructure the Army and stated that the Army will

> 'convert the second of our operational divisional headquarters to a force preparation role.'

While organisational restructuring and reductions in military manpower are clearly linked it is incorrect to assume that because an organisation is rationalised the individuals in that organisation will be made redundant. When organisational change reduces the requirement for officers or soldiers, then the overall strength is reduced. Separate processes are used to determine how to effect that reduction and, therefore, which individuals will be affected. This means that the most appropriate individuals leave the service, not necessarily the ones who happen to be in an organisation at the time it is rationalised.

It is too early to say whether this restructuring will result in a surplus of civilian staff, but in the event of civilian staff redundancies resulting from this restructuring they will be scored as part of the 25,000 already announced.

### Defence: Expenditure

**Oliver Colvile:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to monitor the reduction of expenditure in the defence budget. [45878]

**Dr Fox:** Successful implementation of the Strategic Defence and Security Review is one of the Ministry of Defence's key objectives and encompasses reductions in expenditure. I have, therefore, set up a monthly steering group chaired by myself to monitor and drive forward the process. This is supported by a Defence Operating Board (Transforming Defence) chaired by the 2nd permanent under-secretary and vice-chief of the defence staff. These will enable us to provide assurance of delivery and senior oversight to maintain momentum.

### Defence: Procurement

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much he expects his Department to save as a result of the commitment in the Strategic Defence and Security Review to save significant amounts from contract re-negotiations with the defence industry in each year of the comprehensive spending review period; [45748]

(2) what recent discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with representatives of the defence industry on the honouring of provisions in contracts to which his Department is party; [45989]

(3) what estimate he has made of the saving for his Department as a result of implementation of the commitment in the Strategic Defence and Spending Review to save significant amounts from contract renegotiations with the defence industry; and how much he expects to be saved in each year of the comprehensive spending review period; [46464]

(4) whether the contract renegotiations with the defence industry committed to in the Strategic Defence and Security Review have commenced; and if he will make a statement. [46469]

**Peter Luff:** The Ministry of Defence honours its contractual commitments. Where it is necessary to amend the conditions of a contract, we do so through negotiation. Regarding negotiations relating specifically to post-Strategic Defence and Security Review work, I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 2 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 454-5W to the right hon. Member for Coventry North East (Mr Ainsworth).

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many obligations in contracts with private sector providers have not been met as a consequence of the time taken to announce the composition of the equipment programme following the strategic defence and security review. [46026]

**Peter Luff:** I am aware of no contractual obligations in respect of defence equipment which the Department has not met as a result of the current financial planning round.

### Departmental Leaseback Arrangements

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assets his Department has sold and leased back over the last 12 months; what the sale price was of each asset so sold; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of leasing back each such asset over the period of the lease. [45074]

**Mr Robathan:** The Ministry of Defence has not sold and leased back any assets during the last 12 months.

### Departmental Procurement

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many procurement projects with a monetary value greater than *(a)* £10 million, *(b)* £50 million and *(c)* £100 million (i) his Department and (ii) each non-departmental public body and agency for which he is responsible was engaged upon in the latest period for which figures are available. [45555]

**Peter Luff:** The current numbers of procurement projects identified by the Ministry of Defence in the categories requested is shown in the following table:

| *Project value (£ million)* | *Number of projects* |
|---|---|
| 10-50 | 125 |
| 50-100 | 21 |
| Over 100 | 66 |

The projects included are those funded and managed by the Defence Equipment and Support and Defence Estates organisations. There are no procurement projects being managed by the non-departmental public bodies that fall within the scope of the question.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**John Glen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what timetable he has set for decisions on measures to achieve non-frontline savings identified in the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [46373]

**Dr Fox:** The Ministry of Defence is committed to making at least £4.3 billion of non-frontline savings by 2014-15. We are determined to deliver these.

### Departmental Research

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much expenditure his Department *(a)* allocated to science and technology research in each of the last five years and *(b)* plans to allocate to science and technology research in each of the next five years. [45928]

**Peter Luff** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* The most recently published figures for net Ministry of Defence (MOD) research spending in "UK Defence Statistics 2010", which included the research programme controlled by the chief scientific adviser (CSA) and other activity reported as "research" in the accounts across MOD are (inclusive of non-recoverable VAT at current prices):

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 632 |
| 2007-08 | 635 |
| 2008-09 | 584 |

MOD research expenditure statistics are designated National Statistics status and as such the release of the figure for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are embargoed until their publication by the Office for National Statistics in September 2011 and 2012, respectively. However, the organisation within the MOD charged with management and procurement of research for CSA, the largest part of the reported expenditure, recorded a net resource outturn of some £466 million for 2009-10 and was allocated a budget of £439 million for 2010-11.

No final decisions have been taken in the current defence planning round (PR11) on the level of research funding for 2011-12 onwards. However, we expect the science and technology budget to rise slightly in cash terms over the comprehensive spending review period. A complete time series detailing MOD research expenditure is published in UK Defence Statistics (Table 1.8), a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Security

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons persons not employed by Government departments or agencies are issued with passes entitling them to enter his Department's premises. [43215]

**Mr Robathan:** Passes may be issued to individuals who have valid business reasons for making frequent visits to specific Government sites (e.g. contractors), subject to the usual security checks.

### European Fighter Aircraft

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will assess the effect on arrangements for the defence of the *(a)* UK and *(b)* Falkland Islands from aerial attack of circumstances where Typhoon aircraft are stationed in an air-to-air role outside that airspace. [44996]

**Nick Harvey:** The Typhoon force is of sufficient size that it could support a contingency operation overseas, while at the same time maintaining aircraft at continuous ground readiness to fulfil all Quick Reaction Alert standing commitments at RAF Coningsby, RAF Leuchars and in the Falklands.

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the *(a)* cost to date and *(b)* future cost of compatibility tests for each type of ground attack weapon deployed from Typhoon aircraft. [44997]

**Peter Luff:** The ground attack weapons currently cleared for use on Typhoon aircraft are Enhanced Paveway II using the Litening III Laser Designation Pod, Paveway II, Unguided 1000lb Bomb and the Mauser gun. It is estimated that the total cost of the compatibility tests for these weapons was £4.6 million.

The Paveway IV bomb, which will also use the Litening III Laser Designation Pod, is currently being cleared for future use on Typhoon aircraft. This weapon is being integrated under the Typhoon Future Capability Programme. It is estimated that the total cost of the compatibility tests for this weapon will be £2.4 million.

The cost of individual tests is not recorded.

### Gurkhas: Ex-servicemen

**Mr Buckland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the terms of reference are of the cross-Government task force on Gurkha veterans and their families; and whether the task force is to examine *(a)* pensions and *(b)* other welfare payments to Gurkha veterans; [46199]

(2) what the date was of the most recent meeting of the cross-Government task force on Gurkha veterans; and on what date the next meeting of the task force is scheduled; [46200]

(3) which Government departments participate in the cross-Government task force on Gurkha veterans and their families; [46201]

(4) whether organisations representing Gurkha veterans have been consulted by the cross-Government task force on issues affecting Gurkha veterans and their families. [46714]

**Mr Robathan:** The aim of the Cross Government Working Group, which was convened following the immigration changes in 2009, was to ensure that ex-Gurkhas in Nepal were able to make an informed decision to come to the UK and if they did so, that there was an end-to-end process to make their settlement as smooth as possible. The Working Group consisted of the Ministry of Defence (MOD), the UK Border Agency, the Department for Work and Pensions, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department of Health, the Department for Children, Schools and Families, the Cabinet Office, the Foreign Office and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. The issues of pension and welfare payments were not examined by the Working Group. All ex-Gurkhas who settle in the UK are entitled to apply for the full range of state benefits, if they are unable to work. There are no plans to review this. The Working Group met three times, most recently on 16 February 2010, although most business on the key issues has been and continues to be conducted bilaterally between Government Departments.

The Cross Government Working Group is being reconvened with a new aim of looking beyond the issue of the settlement process. It will consider what options are available for specific communities who are experiencing strains due to large numbers of ex-Gurkhas and their families who have settled in these areas.

The MOD provided extensive briefing in 2009 and 2010 for both service charities and ex-Gurkha organisations, in the UK and Nepal, on the work of the Cross Government Working Group.

### Improvised Explosive Devices

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding he has allocated to counter-improvised explosive device capability in each financial year from 2011-12 to 2014-15. [45806]

**Dr Fox:** A significant proportion of our Counter-Improvised Explosive Device (C-IED) capability procured to date has been as a result of Urgent Operational Requirements (UOR) and therefore funded by the Reserve. As specific enhancements in this area are dependent on the evolving threat, future expenditure cannot be predicted with any accuracy. Countering IEDs encompasses a multitude of capabilities and responsibilities spread throughout the Department and hence there is no one central area that holds this information. In relation to Defence funded capabilities, we do not release information for projects that have not reached the main investment decision.

### Libya

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has *(a)* had any discussions with and *(b)* provided any assistance to British universities in securing (i) contracts and (ii) financial support from Libya in the last 10 years. [46071]

**Dr Fox:** Since the appointment of the coalition Government the Ministry of Defence has had no discussions with, or provided any assistance to, British universities interested in trading with Libya.

### Marines

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the likely effect of the implementation of the measures in the Strategic Defence and Security Review on the *(a)* size, *(b)* capability and *(c)* deployability of the Royal Marines; and if he will make a statement. [46019]

**Nick Harvey** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend, the Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology (Peter Luff) on 21 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 1022W.

### Military Aircraft

**Mr Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what UK military assets have been identified for inclusion in contingency plans for the UK to contribute to a no-fly zone over Libya; and how many *(a)* air-to-air capable aircraft, *(b)* ground attack aircraft, *(c)* air-to-air refuelling tankers, *(d)* AWACS aircraft and *(e)* other supporting assets and personnel will be included in such plans. [45382]

**Nick Harvey:** The Government keeps plans for the use of our armed forces under constant review. A number of contingency plans, including for further humanitarian assistance, enforcing an arms embargo and the implementation of a no-fly zone, are being considered by NATO with respect to Libya. No decisions have been taken and no assets have been committed.

**Mr Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the UK's fast jet capability; and if he will make a statement. [45931]

**Nick Harvey** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* In the air defence role Typhoon aircraft are held at readiness to defend UK airspace, including the Falkland Islands, and in the air to ground role the Tornado GR4 provides a capable close air support, reconnaissance and offensive strike capability. It can support other contingent operations if required.

The Tornado GR4 is capable of carrying a full array of strike and counter-insurgency weaponry, including a full range of precision guided bombs, Storm Shadow long range stand-off missiles and the highly accurate dual-mode seeker Brimstone weapon. Since 2009 it has also provided the United Kingdom contribution to fast jet operations in Afghanistan. The RAPTOR reconnaissance pod is a highly discriminating sensor which provides an unparalleled combination of stand-off and resolution in a tactical system.

Typhoon deliveries are ongoing and it continues to build up both air defence and multirole capabilities. Our other air defence fighter, the Tornado F3, will be retired when the Typhoon takes over the remaining Quick Reaction Alert duties at the end of this month.

By around 2020 our fast jet fleet will be made up of two modern and highly capable multi-role combat aircraft, Typhoon and Joint Strike Fighter, which will provide the flexibility and strike-power to deal with a variety of new and existing threats in line with the adaptable posture set out in the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

### Military Aircraft: Helicopters

**Mr Frank Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what type of helicopter was used in the recent mission to transport diplomats to Benghazi, Libya; and when the helicopter was allowed to return to its original basing point. [45807]

**Dr Fox:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement given by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), to the House on 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-45. I am unable to provide any further operational details.

### Military Aircraft: Public Finance

**Mr Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate has been made of the cost to the public purse of establishing support facilities in Malta for *(a)* RAF Tornado aircraft, *(b)* RAF Typhoon aircraft, *(c)* RAF AWACS aircraft, *(d)* RAF air-to-air refuelling tankers and *(e)* support infrastructure and personnel; and whether any additional costs would be funded from the contingency reserve. [45381]

**Nick Harvey:** There are currently no RAF Tornados, RAF Typhoons, RAF AWACS or RAF air-to-air refuelling tankers based in Malta and we have no plans for such basing in the future. The additional costs of support infrastructure and personnel for the recent deployment to Malta are currently being assessed and it would be premature to release them at this point. We are looking at whether there are additional costs for evacuating entitled personnel from Libya that it would be appropriate to recover from the reserve or other Government Departments.

### Military Bases

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether the *(a)* sale and *(b)* demolition of Hyde Park Barracks is being considered as part of the rationalisation of the defence estate; [45759]

(2) what discussions *(a)* Ministers in his Department and *(b)* his officials have had on the (i) sale and (ii) demolition of Hyde Park Barracks. [45760]

**Mr Robathan:** We keep our estate under continuous review to ensure that it is no larger than is required for defence purposes.

So far as Hyde Park Barracks is concerned, in addition to the ongoing review of the defence estate, officials have considered the future use of the barracks, but there are currently no plans to redevelop the site.

### National Security Council

**Oliver Colvile:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what military personnel serve on the secretariat of the National Security Council. [45870]

**Dr Fox:** The secretariat to the National Security Council consists of two civilian staff posts. It has no military staff.

The National Security Secretariat, which supports the delivery of the national security strategy, comprises a broad set of directorates that oversee foreign and defence policy and security, intelligence, and resilience functions across Government—as well as co-ordination of Government response in the event of civil emergencies, terrorist incidents and international crises.

The National Security Secretariat has five seconded military personnel.

### Navy: Military Bases

**Oliver Colvile:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what notice his Department proposes to give to service personnel whose ships are to be transferred under his proposed changes to port-basing. [45925]

**Mr Robathan** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence is currently examining whether there is a case for changing base porting arrangements for the Type 23 frigates. As part of this process consideration will be given to the impact on naval service personnel and their families and we will give them sufficient notice to enable them to plan their futures. A decision is expected by the end of the year.

**Oliver Colvile:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to make an announcement on the port-basing of ships and submarines. [46000]

**Nick Harvey** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is examining whether there is a case for changing the current base porting arrangements for the Type 23 frigates. We anticipate a decision being made by the end of the year, although no date has been set for making any announcements.

An announcement on the base porting of the Type 26 global combat ship will be made after the main investment decision point, which is anticipated to be by the middle of this decade.

The MOD keeps the base porting arrangements for its ships and submarines under continuous review, but, at this time, we have no plans to announce any other base porting changes beyond those outlined above.

### Nimrod Aircraft: Decommissioning

**Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the decommissioning of the Nimrod MRA4 fleet. [46600]

**Peter Luff** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for the Armed Forces, my hon. Friend the Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey), on 13 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 445W, to the hon. Member for Glasgow South (Mr Harris).

### Royal Fleet Auxiliary

**Steve Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the involvement of the private sector in the Royal Navy in addition to the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. [45352]

**Nick Harvey:** The private sector supports the Naval Service in a range of contracted out activities through commercial policy arrangements and includes training, maintenance, catering and cleaning.

Additionally, under a private finance initiative arrangement six roll-on/roll-off sealift ships (the Point Class) are used to transport military cargoes when required. These are civilian ships with British based crews who are required to be sponsored reserves as a condition of service. They carry no special protection capability. Therefore, when undertaking military work, any force protection measures would be provided by the armed forces.

### Strategic Defence and Security Review

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the Strategic Defence and Security Review, how much funding he plans to allocate to introducing a new range of medium weight armoured vehicles, including Terrier engineer vehicles and the Scout reconnaissance vehicles. [45899]

**Peter Luff:** £386 million has been approved for the Terrier engineer vehicle programme which has an in-service date of 2013. The Scout reconnaissance vehicle is part of the wider Specialist Vehicle (SV) programme. A demonstration phase contract worth approximately £500 million was signed in June 2010 for Scout and other early elements of the SV programme. No contract has been signed for the manufacture of Scout, and the remainder of the SV programme has not yet reached its main investment decision point. The Department does not publish the planned costs of programmes before this point. To do otherwise would potentially undermine our commercial position.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the Strategic Defence and Security Review, which Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance capabilities will receive increased funding from his Department in each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [45902]

**Peter Luff:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 30 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 748W.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much he expects his Department to save as a result of the commitment in the Strategic Defence and Security Review to rationalise wider equipment holdings in each year of the comprehensive spending review period; [45903]

(2) how much he expects his Department to save as a result of the commitment in the Strategic Defence and Security Review to creating a cost-effective training environment in each year of the comprehensive spending review period; [45907]

(3) how much he expects his Department to save as a result of the commitment in the Strategic Defence and Security Review to reduce the role of the VC-10 transport/tanker aircraft to undertake air-to-air refuelling in each year of the comprehensive spending review period; [45912]

(4) how much he expects his Department to save as a result of the commitment in the Strategic Defence and Security Review to reductions in spend on media and communications in each year of the comprehensive spending review period; [45919]

(5) how much he expects his Department to save as a result of the commitment in the Strategic Defence and Security Review to efficiencies and improvements in military training, including the increased use of simulators for air-crew and Army live firing, in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [45923]

**Peter Luff:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 29 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 582W. It is too early to say what potential savings may accrue from the Strategic Defence and Security review in all of the detailed categories listed. Where estimates of itemised savings have been made, I am withholding these as their disclosure would prejudice commercial interests. Much work is now required to work through the detailed implications of Strategic Defence and Security Review decisions and their implementation. We will be providing the fullest possible information as progress is made.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the Strategic Defence and Security Review, how much funding he has allocated to introducing protected support vehicles to replace unprotected versions that are no longer suitable. [45906]

**Peter Luff:** Decisions on the funding of the protected support vehicles programmes, will be made at their respective main investment decision points. The Ministry of Defence does not publish the planned costs of programmes before this point. To do otherwise would potentially undermine our commercial position.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what level of reduction in the planned number of Joint Strike Fighter aircraft he expects to arise as a result of the outcome of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [45911]

**Peter Luff:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 3 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 852-3W to the hon. Member for Glenrothes (Lindsay Roy), the hon. Member for North Durham (Mr Jones) and the hon. Member for Moray (Angus Robertson).

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what new capabilities he plans to purchase using the funding allocated to cyber security by the Strategic Defence and Security Review; [45913]

(2) who sits on the UK Defence Cyber Operations Group; how many times the Group has met since its creation; what the agenda was for each meeting; and what executive powers the Group has; [45914]

(3) what plans he has for the allocation of funding for cyber security announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review; and what capability benefits will result from this expenditure. [45917]

**Mr Robathan:** As stated in the National Security Strategy the Government believes that attacks through cyberspace constitute a threat to our national security on a par with terrorism. We are investing an extra £650 million over the spending review period to address this threat. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) will play its part by incorporating cyber security into the mainstream of defence planning and operations; supported by the establishment of a Defence Cyber Operations Group (DCOG).

We have set up a formal Defence cyber security change programme to deliver our Strategic Defence and Security Review commitments by 2015 and transform the way Defence approaches cyber operations. A two-star military officer has been appointed to drive implementation and will be chairing a programme board with representation from within the MOD, the Cabinet Office and other Government Departments. We have established a strong cyber policy and plans team which will develop MOD cyber policy, lay the ground work for the establishment of the DCOG, and enhance MOD's cyber capabilities. By 2015, the DCOG will be fully operational, manned and equipped.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the strategic defence and security review (SDSR), how much his Department will bear the risk of the capability gaps that will arise as a result of the outcome of the SDSR. [45920]

**Dr Fox:** The strategic defence and security review sets out the capabilities we will be enhancing and those we will be removing or gapping from the armed forces as we move towards the Future Force 2020 structure. We recognise that there will be risks associated with these decisions. We are managing these risks by: ensuring our operations in Afghanistan are prioritised; maintaining our military strategic intelligence capability; ensuring we have adaptable capabilities; deepening our partnerships; preserving the ability to reconstitute our levels of military capability in areas which are currently lower priority; and, by maintaining our strategic deterrent.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much he expects his Department to save as a result of the commitment in the Strategic Defence and Security Review to rationalise his Department's estate including the sale of surplus land and buildings and associated running cost reductions and running cost savings across the estate in each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period; [45921]

(2) how much he expects his Department to save as a result of the commitment in the Strategic Defence and Security Review to a revised approach to managing and delivering infrastructure services across his Department's estate in each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [45922]

**Mr Robathan:** The Secretary of State for Defence, the right hon. Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), announced on 16 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 78W, that the formation of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation would result in savings of some £1.2 billion for the first four years, from estate running costs, and the disposal of surplus land and buildings. Precise details are being finalised, including those as part of the re-basing study currently under way, but we would expect about half of it to be delivered through greater efficiency in the management and delivery of infrastructure services leading to savings in manpower and contract costs.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what capability gaps he has identified resulting from the outcome of the strategic defence and security review. [46027]

**Dr Fox:** To address the deficit in the Defence budget and contribute to wider deficit reduction a number of capabilities had to be either removed or gapped. These are set out in the strategic defence and security review White Paper.

### Submarines

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the establishment is at all ranks of the Royal Navy Submarine Service. [46132]

**Mr Robathan** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]*: The permanent posts for the Royal Navy Submarine Service as of March 2011 are:

| *Preferred rank* | *Total* |
|---|---|
| Vice Admiral | 2 |
| Commodore | 5 |
| Captain | 27 |
| Commander | 99 |
| Lieutenant Commander | 195 |
| Lieutenant | 310 |
| Warrant Office 1 | 95 |
| Warrant Office 2 | 204 |
| Chief Petty Officer | 660 |
| Petty Officer | 390 |
| Leading Hand | 569 |
| Able Seaman | 922 |
| Total | 3,478 |

It should be noted that this list may change depending on the programmes of the submarine fleet. These figures include the full complement of the Royal Navy submarine posts (including the system of six crews to man the four Vanguard-class ballistic missile submarines). Also included are posts for submarine personnel, based in shore positions across Defence, who are acting in support of the fleet but not assigned to individual submarines.

### Surveillance

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the surveillance needs of the UK *(a)* now, *(b)* in 2015 and *(c)* in 2020; and what plans he has to meet these needs. [45905]

**Mr Robathan:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer the Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology, the hon. Member for Mid Worcestershire (Peter Luff), gave on 29 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 583W.

### Voluntary Work and Charitable Donations

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether his Department has a policy to encourage its employees to *(a)* volunteer and *(b)* donate via payroll giving; [43234]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to support the big society initiative; [42638]

(3) whether *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department are participating in volunteering activities as part of his Department's involvement in the big society initiative. [42658]

**Mr Robathan:** The big society is an approach and philosophy which is at the heart of the Government's reforms across all policy areas with the aim of localising power and opening up public services and encouraging social action. Each Department has a range of specific programmes which will contribute to growing the big society. These policies are co-ordinated across Government through meetings at official and ministerial level, including the Informal Ministerial Group on the Big Society and Localism, which shares ideas and supports progress on cross cutting issues relating to the big society.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has been involved with the big society initiative since its launch in July 2010 with Ministers and Officials attending the inter-ministerial and director general meetings respectively. MOD personnel have also been actively involved in desk level discussion on the big society and National Citizen Service initiatives.

My ministerial colleagues and I are committed to leading the way to get more Defence professionals to use their skills through active involvement with charities and voluntary groups.

For civil servants within the MOD, the Department has in place policy, rules and guidance on special leave that provide staff and their managers with a framework within which to support time off to engage in big society goals and volunteering activities. Those can include local Government work, magisterial duties and other unpaid voluntary public service.

There are a number of initiatives already in place, including:

*Cadet Forces:*

The Ministry of Defence has four sponsored Cadet Forces: the Sea Cadet Corps, the Army Cadet Force, the Air Cadet Force and the Combined Cadet Force. They are among the UK's largest and most successful youth organisations, having a long history of preparing young people for all walks of life and encouraging an active involvement in local communities. There are currently 133,000 cadets and 25,000 adult volunteers across the cadet movement.

*Defence Youth Engagement Review:*

The MOD is currently conducting a comprehensive review of youth engagement with the aim of determining its youth engagement requirement and methods to deliver it. Interim findings are anticipated in mid 2011 and final recommendations by the end of 2011

*The MOD Education Outreach Programme:*

A programme aimed at 'giving students a start'. The MOD undertakes this as a demonstration of commitment to our corporate social responsibility and a visible contribution to helping develop the skills of the next generation. The programme provides a tangible example of the volunteering ethos of the MOD staff, both military and civilian, and relies on over 30 mentors and supporters, all of whom are volunteers.

Additionally in the south west, HMS Raleigh is assisting Torbay Youth Service with their National Citizen Service by providing a week's accommodation for two pilot programmes.

Across the civil service, Departments including the MOD recently communicated a policy encouraging staff to make full use of special leave provision in their particular Department to volunteer for the 2012 Olympics, as well as contributing their own time alongside any given by Departments.

MOD employees are able to contribute to charities by deduction from salary or pension. Regular articles in 'in house' magazines encourage staff to donate via payroll giving.

To build on this further and to support the big society initiative, the MOD will continue to work alongside other Government Departments through the Civil Service Volunteering Group to communicate to all staff what opportunities will be available to them, and encourage their participation.

### Warships: Repairs and Maintenance

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 917W, on submarines and warships, what the *(a)* name and *(b)* type is of each (i) destroyer and (ii) frigate not currently part of the operational schedule undergoing deep maintenance. [46133]

**Peter Luff** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* The Type 23 frigates HMS Northumberland, HMS Lancaster and HMS Kent are currently in refit. In addition the Type 42 destroyer HMS Edinburgh and Type 23 frigate HMS Argyll are both in post refit sea training and the Type 45 HMS Dauntless, which has recently joined the fleet, has not completed basic operational sea training. These ships are also therefore not available for operations.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### 101 Calls

**Glyn Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the level of usage of the national non-emergency number. [42944]

**Nick Herbert:** The '101' non-emergency telephone number is not yet a national service.

### Arrests: Brighton and Hove

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many arrests were made in Brighton and Hove under section 73 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; [45418]

(2) how many arrests were made in Brighton and Hove under section 6 (1) of the Criminal Law Act 1977 in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [45395]

**James Brokenshire:** The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. From these centrally reported categories, it is not possible to identify arrests under the particular Acts stated.

The most recent data published on arrests (2008-09) by the Home Office can be found at the following link:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/police-powers.html

### Asylum

**Richard Graham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what was the average length of time that elapsed between an application for asylum and final determination of the case in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [44434]

**Damian Green:** In the last 12 months the average length of time elapsed between an application for asylum and final determination of the case was 263 calendar days.

In answering this question we have assumed the date of final determination to be the date an application was either granted or became appeal rights exhausted (ARE)

For those cases which either

(1) had no re-course to appeal;

(2) chose not to exercise appeal rights; or

(3) appealed out-of-time, we have taken final determination to be the date of initial decision.

All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to ensure refugees can access *(a)* employment, *(b)* housing and *(c)* financial assistance from 1 April 2011; and if she will make a statement. [46187]

**Damian Green:** Individuals granted refugee status have full entitlement to access public funds and services.

The Refugee Integration and Employment Service currently provides help and support for new refugees in addressing their integration needs and accessing their entitlements. These contracts expire in September 2011 in line with the agreed contract term.

From October it is proposed that the most vulnerable new refugees will continue to be able to access advice and signposting through the end to end advisory and support services for refugees and asylum seekers which will continue to be delivered under extended agreements with the voluntary sector.

### Asylum: Advisory Services

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to make an assessment of the effects on refugees of reductions in the budget for advice services for refugees at the end of financial year 2011-12; and if she will make a statement. [46186]

**Damian Green:** The Government have extended grant agreements with voluntary sector partners to provide advice and support services for asylum seekers for a further period of two years. The levels of funding provided by these grant agreements have been reduced in line with reductions in the numbers of people claiming asylum and in the numbers of people in receipt of asylum support and therefore in need of these services.

### Asylum: Community Relations

**Ben Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the potential effects on levels of community cohesion of reductions in funding for refugee integration programmes. [45886]

**Damian Green:** We do not believe that the reductions in funding for refugee integration activity will have a significant impact on community cohesion. It is proposed that the most vulnerable new refugees will continue to be able to access advice and signposting through the end to end advisory and support services for refugees and asylum seekers which will continue to be delivered under extended agreements with the voluntary sector. UK Border Agency officials will be co-chairing a working group with the voluntary sector to identify practical, cost neutral, solutions to address the integration needs of refugees.

**Ben Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for future funding for the integration of refugees after they are granted limited leave to remain. [45887]

**Damian Green:** It is proposed that the most vulnerable new refugees will continue to be able to access advice and signposting through the end to end advisory and support services for refugees and asylum seekers which will continue to be delivered under extended agreements with the voluntary sector. UK Border Agency officials will be co-chairing a working group with the voluntary sector to identify practical, cost neutral, solutions to address the integration needs of refugees. The membership will include representatives from other Government Departments.

**Ben Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the likely effect on the budgets of *(a)* other Government Departments and *(b)* local authorities of the cessation of her Department's funding for refugee integration. [45888]

**Damian Green:** Individuals granted refugee status have full entitlement to access public funds and services. The impact of the reduction in funding on the budgets of other Departments and local authorities will therefore be minimal. UK Border Agency officials will be co-chairing a working group with the voluntary sector to identify practical cost neutral solutions to address the integration needs of refugees. The membership will include representatives from other Government Departments.

### Asylum: Scotland

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has any plans to open an office of the UK Border Agency to process claims relating to asylum seekers resident in Scotland in *(a)* Glasgow, *(b)* Edinburgh and *(c)* Aberdeen. [46004]

**Damian Green** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* There are currently no plans to open an asylum screening unit in Scotland; however claims relating to asylum seekers are routinely processed at our offices in Glasgow after initial screening.

We have always been clear that anyone seeking asylum should do so at the first available opportunity—this means on arrival at a port of entry. Only those who have failed to claim on arrival have to travel to Croydon to make their asylum application.

We recognise there may be a small number of exceptional cases who are unable to travel to Croydon. Applicants, whose circumstances are such that they are unable to travel to Croydon, may have their application recorded and screened at a local regional office. This will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the annual cost to the public purse of processing initial applications for asylums in Scotland. [46005]

**Damian Green** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* We do not hold these cost estimates but we are currently developing a process to cost our different outputs, for example asylum conclusion. We will seek to publish this information in due course.

**Graeme Morrice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects of reductions in the budget for the UK Border Agency on refugee charities in Scotland in receipt of funding from that body. [46421]

**Damian Green:** The Government have extended grant agreements with voluntary sector partners in Scotland to provide advice and support services for asylum seekers for a further period of two years. The levels of funding provided by these grant agreements have been reduced in line with reductions in the numbers of people claiming asylum and in the numbers of people in receipt of asylum support and therefore in need of these services.

### Avi Benayahu

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the circumstances of Mr Avi Benayahu's entry into the UK in 2010; and what her policy is on the use by foreign nationals of false names on entry into the UK. [46622]

**Damian Green:** The Home Office does not routinely comment on individual cases. As part of the UK Border Agency's responsibility to secure the border and identify and prevent crime, its officers check all arriving passengers against the Watchlist and examine documents to ensure that they are genuine.

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department was first informed of the intention of Mr Avi Benayahu to enter the UK under a false identity. [46623]

**Damian Green:** The Home Office does not routinely comment on individual cases.

### British Nationality

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people resident in each London borough have been naturalised as UK citizens since 2005. [45409]

**Damian Green:** In order to become naturalised as a British citizen an applicant needs to have attended a citizenship ceremony. The following table provides information relating to the number of applicants for naturalisation who have attended a citizenship ceremony.

This information is taken from local management information provided by UK Border Agency, North West Region Planning and MI Team. It is not a National Statistic and as such it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

*Naturalisation cases attending a British citizenship ceremony in the London boroughs, 2005-10*[1]

| | Ceremony attended | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Local authority* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* |
| Total Greater London | 62,075 | 55,375 | 60,945 | 41,265 | 62,740 | 56,390 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 1,505 | 1,385 | 1,600 | 970 | 1,750 | 1,510 |
| Barnet | 2,715 | 2,290 | 2,770 | 1,925 | 2,735 | 2,315 |
| Bexley | 580 | 540 | 600 | 390 | 740 | 595 |
| Borough of Sutton (London) | 630 | 575 | 850 | 500 | 800 | 815 |
| Brent | 3,530 | 3,120 | 3,380 | 2,360 | 3,245 | 3,060 |
| Bromley | 715 | 675 | 850 | 550 | 905 | 900 |
| Camden | 1,965 | 1,675 | 1,860 | 1,210 | 2,185 | 1,995 |
| Corporation of the City of London | 80 | 85 | 85 | 55 | 35 | 20 |
| Croydon | 1,940 | 1,850 | 2,105 | 1,540 | 2,190 | 1,990 |
| Ealing | 3,775 | 3,040 | 3,835 | 2,520 | 3,175 | 2,940 |
| Enfield | 2,740 | 2,620 | 2,325 | 1,925 | 2,900 | 2,415 |
| Greenwich | 1,640 | 1,375 | 1,620 | 905 | 1,600 | 1,405 |
| Hackney | 2,375 | 2,195 | 1,820 | 1,355 | 2,065 | 1,805 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 1,550 | 1,505 | 1,545 | 915 | 1,230 | 1,040 |
| Haringey | 3,065 | 2,390 | 2,215 | 1,665 | 2,150 | 1,830 |
| Harrow | 2,385 | 1,735 | 2,275 | 1,370 | 2,290 | 2,300 |
| Havering | 380 | 340 | 450 | 265 | 480 | 440 |
| Hillingdon | 1,705 | 1,440 | 1,930 | 1,275 | 1,870 | 1,890 |
| Hounslow | 2,260 | 2,015 | 2,260 | 1,635 | 2,225 | 2,120 |
| Islington | 1,610 | 1,630 | 1,675 | 1,025 | 1,655 | 1,300 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 1,590 | 1,140 | 1,300 | 755 | 1,220 | 1,015 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 785 | 680 | 1,035 | 525 | 935 | 690 |
| Lambeth | 2,415 | 2,215 | 2,255 | 1,525 | 2,070 | 1,715 |
| Lewisham | 1,925 | 1,650 | 2,130 | 1,350 | 1,905 | 1,720 |
| Merton | 1,440 | 1,485 | 1,780 | 1,060 | 1,915 | 1,715 |
| Newham | 3,335 | 3,025 | 3,035 | 2,305 | 3,545 | 3,320 |
| Redbridge | 2,015 | 1,750 | 1,875 | 1,225 | 2,090 | 2,070 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 835 | 715 | 790 | 480 | 780 | 675 |
| Southwark | 2,610 | 2,395 | 2,720 | 1,825 | 2,815 | 2,550 |
| Tower Hamlets | 1,555 | 1,860 | 1,345 | 1,265 | 2,790 | 2,460 |
| Waltham Forest | 1,990 | 1,830 | 1,835 | 1,430 | 1,890 | 1,710 |
| Wandsworth | 2,025 | 2,080 | 2,305 | 1,630 | 2,510 | 2,160 |
| Westminster | 2,415 | 2,080 | 2,490 | 1,510 | 2,055 | 1,890 |

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5, totals may not sum to their components due to rounding.

*Source:*

Local Management Information provided by UK Border Agency, North West Region Planning and MI Team and is not a National Statistic. As such it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

### Departmental Land

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to reduce the size of her Department's estate; and if she will make a statement. [46223]

**Damian Green:** The Department is taking steps to reduce the size of its office estate. Measures to deliver this include consolidation of accommodation across the Home Office Group and the adoption where practicable of the Government's workplace standards of eight square metres per person and a ratio of eight workstations per 10 staff. Estate consolidations are under way in London, Croydon and Liverpool. In Croydon for instance buildings totalling 26000 square metres were surrendered last December. Plans for further significant consolidations are being developed in other major cities and in back office accommodation held at ports of entry.

### Departmental Procurement

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many procurement projects with a monetary value greater than *(a)* £10 million, *(b)* £50 million and *(c)* £100 million (i) her Department and (ii) each non-departmental public body and agency for which she is responsible was engaged upon in the latest period for which figures are available. [45567]

**Damian Green:** The number of current procurement projects and programmes in the Home Office, including its agencies and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) is as follows:

| *Whole life cost (£ million)* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| *(a)* £10 million to <£50 million | 23 |
| *(b)* £50 million to <£100 million | 5 |
| *(c)* £100 million+ | 25 |

The values represent the whole life costs of the projects and programmes and thus include past, current and future costs.

### Departmental Regulation

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions her Department has consulted representatives of small businesses on the effects of proposed new regulations since 6 May 2010. [46144]

**Damian Green:** There have been 16 public consultations by the Home Department since 6 May 2010 which have been published on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/consultations/

Representatives of small business are asked to contribute when this is appropriate. In addition, representatives are consulted on a more informal basis in routine policy development by the Department.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what regulations her Department introduced between 9 and 28 February 2011. [46955]

**Damian Green:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

The following three statutory instruments in the form of regulations were made by the Home Department between 9 and 28 February 2011.

| *S.I. number* | *S.I. title* | *Made date* |
|---|---|---|
| 2011 No. 300 | The Police Act 1996 (Equipment) Regulations 2011 | 9 February 2011 |
| 2011 No. 448 | The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) (England, Wales and Scotland) Regulations 2011 | 18 February 2011 |
| 2011 No. 544 | The Accession (Immigration and Worker Registration)(Revocation, Savings and Consequential Provisions) Regulations 2011 | 24 February 2011 |

### Departmental Written Questions

**Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of written questions tabled to her for answer on a named day between 27 May 2010 and 9 March 2011 did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer. [46559]

**James Brokenshire:** From 27 May 2010 until 9 March 2011, the Home Office gave a substantive answer to 260 out of 777 (33.5%) questions for answer on a named day on the day named for answer.

### Human Trafficking: Olympic Games 2012

**Tessa Jowell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken to assess the risk of human trafficking in the period before the London 2012 Olympics. [46326]

**Damian Green:** Intelligence on risks to the 2012 Olympics, including human trafficking, is assessed on a quarterly basis through the Olympics organised crime threat assessment.

**Tessa Jowell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to allocate resources to the Metropolitan police for work to counter the risk of human trafficking during the period of the London 2012 Olympics. [46379]

**Damian Green:** Tackling human trafficking is core police business. To date we have not seen any evidence of an increase in trafficking around the Olympics. However, we remain vigilant and the Metropolitan police service has received extra funding from the Migration Impact Fund to prioritise activities to disrupt prostitution and recover victims around the Olympic park.

### Identity Cards: Foreign Nationals

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many biometric residence permits she expects to be issued to non-European economic area nationals in each of the five years from 2011. [46446]

**Damian Green:** Based on previous levels, and grants, of applications for leave to remain it is estimated that approximately 340,000 biometric residence permits (BRPs) will be issued each year, subject to any policy changes.

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many biometric residence permits have been issued to non-EEA foreign nationals. [46447]

**Damian Green:** Biometric residence permits were introduced on 25 November 2008 and as at 4 March 2011, just over 409,000 have been issued.

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of issuing biometric residence permits to non-EEA foreign nationals. [46448]

**Damian Green:** There is no cost to the public purse in issuing biometric residence permits to non-EEA nationals. Costs are met by the fees recovered from applicants and the financial benefits accruing from the issue of biometric residence permits.

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will state *(a)* how and *(b)* where biometric data from residence permits issued to non-EEA foreign nationals will be stored. [46449]

**Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency collects a facial image and 10 fingerprints, from each non-EEA foreign national applicant applying for a biometric residence permit, which are stored electronically on the agency's database and on the permit.

### Illegal Immigrants: Taxation

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the number of illegal migrants working in the UK who *(a)* pay tax and *(b)* make national insurance contributions. [46409]

**Damian Green:** There is no official Government estimation for the number of illegal workers in the UK and it is therefore not possible to estimate how many illegal migrants working in the UK pay tax or make national insurance contributions.

### Immigrants: English Language

**Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what means she ensures that providers of secure English language tests adhere to the Common European Framework. [45814]

**Damian Green:** To date the UK Border Agency has conducted its own checks to ensure that providers of secure English language tests adhere to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR).

The UK Border Agency is currently refreshing its list of providers and is requiring prospective providers to provide evidence to show how their tests map against the CEFR. The UK Border Agency is verifying this mapping with the help of an independent expert in the CEFR.

The UK Border Agency will be carrying out independent checks to ensure that tests being completed conform to the relevant level on the CEFR.

**Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many student visas included the requirement for the applicant to have passed a secure English language test in the last 12 months; and how many such tests were administered by each provider. [45815]

**Damian Green:** Secure English Language Testing (SELT) for Tier 4 (General) Student Visa applicants wishing to study a course below degree level was introduced on 12 August 2010. There are exemptions for:

applicants intending to study for foundation degrees;

applicants intending to study for English language courses, including pre-sessional courses;

applicants from majority English speaking countries; and

applicants moving from Tier 4 (Child).

There is no English language requirement for Tier 4 (Child) applicants.

The UK Border Agency does not keep a separate central record of those applicants who are required to pass the SELT. This information could be obtained by checking individual records only at disproportionate cost.

The UK Border Agency does not have a record of how many tests have been administered by each provider.

### Immigration Controls

**Nicola Blackwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many accreditation bodies are currently approved by the UK Border Agency; and when that approval is scheduled to end in each case. [46749]

**Damian Green:** Each of the five UK Border Agency approved accreditation bodies were approved for an initial period of two years. The Accreditation Service for International Colleges, Accreditation UK and the British Accreditation Council were all approved in July 2007. The Association of British Language Schools was approved in March 2009, and the Church of England Ministry Division in May 2009. The government has made clear in its recent consultation on student visas that it intends to strengthen the current arrangements for accreditation. The existing approvals have not therefore been formally renewed, pending decisions on the longer-term arrangements. However the accreditation bodies are continuing to provide the service for which they were approved.

### Immigration Controls: Musicians

**Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to facilitate the granting of work permits and visas to foreign professional musicians invited to perform at concerts in the UK. [46719]

**Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency is committed to providing a first-class visa service meeting its customer service targets for processing applications. 95% of non-settlement applications are processed within three weeks and many applications are dealt with much faster. Although applicants are advised to allow sufficient time for their applications to be processed, visa sections overseas recognise that this is not always possible and will expedite cases where there is an urgent and genuine need to travel.

The agency's partnerships and engagement team also often helps secure visas for musicians and other artists in cases of last minute substitution or injury. The team regularly receives positive feedback from the arts and entertainment sector on its service delivery and intervention in high profile and genuine cases.

### Missing Persons

**Vernon Coaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, the hon. Member for Old Bexley and Sidcup (James Brokenshire) on 26 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 59WH, on missing persons, when she expects to publish the findings of the review into the recommendations of the Missing Perons Taskforce Review. [44311]

**James Brokenshire:** The Home Office has carried out an assessment of the 22 recommendations in the Missing Persons Taskforce Review. Seven have already been delivered, action is under way on a further 10 and the remainder are subject to further consideration. We are working with our counterparts in other Government Departments to consider what further action is needed in this important area, taking account of other relevant developments including, for example, the Munro Review of Child Protection and the transfer of responsibility for missing children from the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP).

## Police: Crime

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* number of police officers and *(b)* crime rate was in the North Wales police force area in each of the last 20 years. [44760]

**Nick Herbert:** Data on police officer strength in North Wales as at 31 March 1990 to 31 March 2009 and 30 September 2010 are given in Table A. Offences recorded in North Wales per 100,000 population, from 1990 to 2009-10 are given in Table B.

The latest provisional Police Service Strength statistics were published on 27 January 2011 and can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

Bulletins for this and previous years are deposited in the Library of the House.

The latest financial year recorded crime statistics were published in July 2010 and are available online at:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/crimeew0910.html

*Table A: Police officer strength (FTE)[1] in North Wales as at 31 March 1990 to 31 March 2009[2,3] and 30 September 2010*

| | Police officer strength |
|---|---|
| 1990 | 1,337 |
| 1991 | 1,349 |
| 1992 | 1,347 |
| 1993 | 1,360 |
| 1994 | 1,352 |
| 1995 | 1,366 |
| 1996 | 1,378 |
| 1997 | 1,369 |
| 1998 | 1,396 |
| 1999 | 1,391 |
| 2000 | 1,403 |
| 2001 | 1,444 |
| 2002 | 1,506 |
| 2003[3] | 1,539 |
| 2004[3] | 1,603 |
| 2005[3] | 1,645 |
| 2006[3] | 1,617 |
| 2007[3] | 1,591 |
| 2008[3] | 1,566 |
| 2009[3] | 1,578 |
| 2010[3] | 1,573 |
| 30 September 2010 | 1,547 |

1. Full Time Equivalent. All officers less staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave (comparable with previously published figures)
2. This and other tables contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
3. Comparable strength (excludes those on career breaks, or maternity/paternity leave). The Police Numbers Task Force (2001) recommended that a clear presentation was made of the numbers of staff employed by police forces including those seconded into the force and those on any type of long or short term absence. These new calculations were first used in 2003, and are not comparable with data prior to March 2003. The data from 2003 onwards used here are termed comparable because they have been calculated on the old basis to allow comparison.

*Table B: Offences recorded in North Wales per 100,000 population*

| | Rate per 100,000 population |
|---|---|
| 1990 | 5,805 |
| 1991 | 6,804 |
| 1992 | 7,537 |
| 1993 | 7,351 |
| 1994 | 6,623 |
| 1995 | 6,331 |
| 1996 | 6,228 |
| 1997 | [1]6,203 |
| 1998-99 | 6,684 |
| 1999-2000 | 6,785 |
| 2000-01 | 7,207 |
| 2001-02 | [2]8,154 |
| 2002-03 | 9,807 |
| 2003-04 | 9,263 |
| 2004-05 | 8,051 |
| 2005-06 | 7,488 |
| 2006-07 | 7,957 |
| 2007-08 | 6,766 |
| 2008-09 | 6,824 |
| 2009-10 | 6,626 |

[1] The coverage was expanded and counting rules changed in 1998-99. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.
[2] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in 2002-03. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

## Police: Local Government

**Nick de Bois:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has plans to enable local authorities to access police data systems in order to tackle housing benefit and council tax fraud. [45216]

**Nick Herbert:** I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given on 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 872W.

## Students: Visas

**Nicola Blackwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from how many UK institutions graduates can receive a post-study work visa; and for what types of degrees in each case. [46799]

**Damian Green:** The information is not centrally recorded in the format requested and could be obtained by a manual check of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

**Nicola Blackwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people received a post-study work visa in 2009; and how many such people had received *(a)* a UK recognised bachelor or postgraduate degree, *(b)* a UK postgraduate certificate in education or Professional Graduate Diploma of Education and *(c)* a Higher National Diploma from a Scottish institution. [46800]

**Damian Green:** In 2009 38,425 post-study work visas were issued.

In order to qualify for a post-study work visa a migrant must have been awarded a United Kingdom recognised bachelor's or postgraduate degree, a United Kingdom Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) or Professional Graduate Diploma of Education (PGDE), or Higher National Diploma (HND) from a Scottish institution. It is not possible to provide a breakdown of which of these degree types are used to qualify under this route.

## Vetting

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the policy of the Criminal Records Bureau is on who may use the title Ms in applications for a Criminal Records Bureau check. [45761]

**Lynne Featherstone:** The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) has no policy which outlines who may use the title Ms. There are no restrictions placed by the CRB on applicants as to which title they choose to use when completing a CRB application form.

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were subject to a discretionary bar by the Independent Safeguarding Authority in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [46006]

**Lynne Featherstone** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) commenced independent decision-making on 20 January 2009. Using its discretionary barring powers, the ISA barred 28 people in 2009 and 422 people in 2010.

This figure excludes barring decisions for auto-bar offences, as well as any barring decisions made on those people who were included on the previous barred lists and whom the ISA has 'determined' under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (Transitory Provisions) Order 2009 should be placed on the ISA barred lists.

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Criminal Records Bureau checks were issued in 2010 to those working in the gaming industry. [46813]

**Lynne Featherstone:** The information requested is not recorded by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB). When making applications for CRB checks, individuals and employers are asked to provide the details of the specific position that is being applied for rather than the employment sector or industry.

## ATTORNEY-GENERAL

### Confiscation Orders

**Catherine McKinnell:** To ask the Attorney-General how many confiscation orders have been obtained by the Serious Fraud Office's Proceeds of Crime Unit in 2010-11 to date; and what the total monetary value is of such orders. [46265]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Serious Fraud Office has obtained 14 confiscation orders in the financial year to date. The total value of these orders is £28,307,690.66.

### Fraud: Prosecutions

**Catherine McKinnell:** To ask the Attorney-General (1) how many people have been convicted in cases brought by the Serious Fraud Office in 2010-11; and what the conviction rate for cases brought by the Serious Fraud Office has been in 2010-11 to date; [46260]

(2) how many cases have been brought by the Serious Fraud Office in 2010-11; and how many defendants have been tried in such cases; [46261]

(3) what the caseload of the Serious Fraud Office has been in 2010-11 to date. [46262]

**The Attorney-General:** The conviction rate for cases concluded so far in year 2010-11 is 83%. 30 defendants were tried (individuals and corporates). Of these 30 defendants 25 were found guilty and five were acquitted. This covered a total of 15 cases.

The Serious Fraud Office case load naturally fluctuates throughout the year, and on average they handle around 100 active cases. These cases will be at pre trial, trial and post trial stages.

### HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate: Redundancy

**Catherine McKinnell:** To ask the Attorney-General (1) how much funding HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate has allocated to redundancy costs in each financial year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; [46188]

(2) how many staff HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate expects to make *(a)* voluntarily and *(b)* compulsorily redundant in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; and from what roles he expects such staff to be made redundant; [46189]

(3) how much HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate has spent on redundancy costs in 2010-11 to date; [46191]

(4) how many staff HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate has made redundant in 2010-11 to date; and from what roles such staff have been made redundant; [46192]

(5) how much funding HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate allocated to redundancy costs in 2010-11. [46190]

**The Solicitor-General:** HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate has not made any staff redundant in 2010-11 and has no plans to do so. Currently there are also no plans for any staff redundancies in the period 2011-12 to 2014-15, and consequently no funds have been allocated to cover redundancies over this period.

### Serious Fraud Office: Redundancy

**Catherine McKinnell:** To ask the Attorney-General (1) how much funding the Serious Fraud Office has allocated to redundancy costs in each financial year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; [46250]

(2) how many staff the Serious Fraud Office expects to make *(a)* voluntarily and *(b)* compulsorily redundant in each financial year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; [46251]

(3) how many staff the Serious Fraud Office expects to make redundant in each financial year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; and from what roles staff are expected to be made redundant; [46252]

(4) how much funding the Serious Fraud Office allocated to meet redundancy costs in 2010-11; [46253]

(5) how many staff the Serious Fraud Office expects to make *(a)* voluntarily and *(b)* compulsorily redundant in 2010-11; [46254]

(6) how many staff the Serious Fraud Office expects to make redundant in 2010-11; and from what roles staff are expected to be made redundant; [46255]

(7) how much the Serious Fraud Office has spent on redundancy costs in 2010-11 to date; [46256]

(8) how many staff the Serious Fraud Office has made redundant in 2010-11 to date; and from what roles staff have been made redundant. [46266]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) has not made any staff redundant in the 2010-11 period nor has it any plans to do so. The SFO also has no current plans for voluntary or compulsory redundancies for the period 2011-12 to 2014-15 and consequently no monies have been set aside in this period for compulsory or voluntary redundancy.

### Treasury Solicitor's Department: Finance

**Catherine McKinnell:** To ask the Attorney-General (1) what the *(a)* resource and *(b)* capital budget of the Treasury Solicitor's Department (i) is in 2010-11 and (ii) will be in each year of the comprehensive spending review period; [46229]

(2) what the *(a)* resource and *(b)* capital budget of the Treasury Solicitor's Department (i) is for 2010-11 and (ii) will be in each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [46247]

**The Solicitor-General:** The information requested is contained in the following table.

*Treasury Solicitor's Department*

| | Resource | £<br>Capital |
|---|---|---|
| 2010-11 | 4,785,000 | 3,510,000 |
| 2011-12 | 5,240,000 | 1,700,000 |
| 2012-13 | 5,140,000 | 1,700,000 |
| 2013-14 | 4,540,000 | 1,700,000 |
| 2014-15 | 3,660,000 | 1,700,000 |

**Catherine McKinnell:** To ask the Attorney-General under what budget headings reductions in expenditure will be made by the Treasury Solicitor's Department following the outcome of the comprehensive spending review; and by how much expenditure will be reduced under each heading. [46246]

**The Solicitor-General:** The planned expenditure for the Treasury Solicitor's Department over the spending review period as agreed with Treasury is as follows:

| | Revenue | £<br>Capital |
|---|---|---|
| 2010-11 | 4,785,000 | 3,510,000 |
| 2011-12 | 5,240,000 | 1,700,000 |
| 2012-13 | 5,140,000 | 1,700,000 |
| 2013-14 | 4,540,000 | 1,700,000 |
| 2014-15 | 3,660,000 | 1,700,000 |

The revenue funding is to cover three budget headings: the cost of the public interest work TSol undertakes for the Attorney-General, our European division and the Government Legal Service (GLS) Secretariat. The expenditure will reduce by 33% in real terms over the spending review period from 2010-11 levels.

The capital funding is to meet our administration capital requirements.

### Treasury Solicitor's Department: Manpower

**Catherine McKinnell:** To ask the Attorney-General how many *(a)* permanent and *(b)* non-permanent staff the Treasury Solicitor's Department expects to employ at (i) the end of March 2011 and (ii) the end of each subsequent financial year in the comprehensive spending review period. [46232]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Treasury Solicitor's Department expects to employ *(a)* 819 full-time equivalent permanent staff and *(b)* 75 full-time equivalent non permanent staff at the end of March 2011.

The Treasury Solicitor's Department provides legal services to Government Departments, who pay for the cost of those services. Staffing levels are, therefore, largely determined by client demand. There will be reductions in back office staff but it is anticipated that they will be redeployed on client work.

It is not, therefore, currently planned to change the overall number of staff during the spending review period.

### Treasury Solicitor's Department: Redundancy

**Catherine McKinnell:** To ask the Attorney-General (1) how much the Treasury Solicitor's Department has spent on redundancy costs in 2010-11 to date; [46233]

(2) how many staff the Treasury Solicitor's Department has made redundant in 2010-11 to date; and from what roles staff have been made redundant; [46234]

(3) how many staff the Treasury Solicitor's Department expects to make redundant in 2010-11; and from what roles staff are expected to be made redundant; [46235]

(4) how many staff the Treasury Solicitor's Department expects to make *(a)* voluntarily and *(b)* compulsorily redundant in 2010-11; [46236]

(5) how much funding the Treasury Solicitor's Department has allocated to meet redundancy costs in 2010-11. [46237]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Treasury Solicitor's Department have not made any staff redundant in 2010-11 and no redundancy costs have been incurred.

There are no plans for staff redundancies in 2010-11 and thus no funds have been allocated to meet redundancy costs.

**Catherine McKinnell:** To ask the Attorney-General (1) how many staff the Treasury Solicitor's Department expects to make *(a)* voluntarily and *(b)* compulsorily redundant in each financial year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; and from what roles staff are expected to be made redundant; [46238]

(2) how much funding the Treasury Solicitor's Department has allocated to redundancy costs in each financial year from 2011-12 to 2014-15. [46239]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Treasury Solicitor's Department has no plans for any staff redundancies from 2011-12 to 2014-15 at this stage and no funds have been specifically allocated to redundancies in budgets over this period.

The Treasury Solicitor's Department provides legal services to Government Departments, who pay for the cost of those services. Staffing levels are, therefore, largely determined by client demand. There will be reductions in back office staff but it is anticipated that they will be redeployed on client work.

## PRIME MINISTER

### National Security Council: Manpower

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Prime Minister what the *(a)* civilian and *(b)* military staff establishment is of the secretariat of the National Security Council. [46686]

**The Prime Minister:** My National Security Adviser (Sir Peter Ricketts) is the Secretary to the National Security Council. The secretariat to the National Security Council consists of two civilian staff posts.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Child Maintenance

**Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of child maintenance cases with an assessment and payment schedule were fully compliant in the 12 months to the end of March 2010; and what proportion of such cases *(a)* resulted in payments of (i) 50 per cent. or more and (ii) less than 50 per cent. of the child maintenance due and *(b)* were wholly non-compliant. [4755]

**Maria Miller:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of child maintenance cases with an assessment and payment schedule were fully compliant in the 12 months to the end of March 2010; and what proportion of such cases (a) resulted in payments of (i) 50 per cent. or more and (ii) less than 50 per cent. of the child maintenance due and (b) were wholly non-compliant.

In the 12 months to March 2010, 769,200 cases paid maintenance out of 944,300 cases that had a liability and or payment schedule at some point across the same period. 327,500 cases (35%) were fully compliant for the 12 month period, this includes cases which were only liable for maintenance for part of the year but were fully compliant for that period. 80,400 cases (9%) were wholly non-compliant for the 12 month period.

Robust management information figures are not available to answer what proportion of cases paid more, or less than 50 per cent. of the child maintenance due.

**Gareth Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many parents resident in Dartford constituency have used the Child Support Agency or the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission to ensure child maintenance payments are enforced in each of the last five years. [44108]

**Maria Miller:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 8 March 2011:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many parents resident in Dartford constituency have used the Child Support Agency or the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission to ensure child maintenance payments are enforced in each of the last five years. [44108]

The number of cases currently being handled by the Child Support Agency, where the parent with care lives in Dartford parliamentary constituency, are shown in the table below. Figures include all live cases and also cases without a current assessment but where arrears are still owed from a previous assessment. The figures also include those cases which are managed off the main computer system from December 2008.

| *Quarter ending as at December each year* | *Cases* |
|---|---|
| 2006 | 1,850 |
| 2007 | 1,930 |
| 2008 | 2,010 |
| 2009 | 1,890 |
| 2010 | 1,780 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Figures based on cases where the parent with care lives in Dartford constituency.

3. Figures reflect the performance of cases administered off system from December 2008.

4. It should be noted that the parliamentary constituency of Dartford had its boundary redrawn at the time of the 2010 general election. The caseload figure as at December 2010 is therefore not comparable with the figures prior to this date.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

### Crisis Loans

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* impact assessment and *(b)* consultation his Department has undertaken on its decision on the future (i) level and (ii) availability of social fund crisis loans. [45536]

**Steve Webb:** The current system of crisis loans is poorly targeted and open to abuse; for example, some 17,000 people received 10 or more crisis loans in the last 12 months. As outlined in my written ministerial statement of 3 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 45-46WS, we have had to take urgent action to bring spending on crisis loans back under control and ensure we can continue to meet genuine need.

An equality impact assessment of these changes has been published on the DWP website including details of consultation undertaken:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments/

### Disability

**Mr Buckland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps he plans to take to ensure that assessors for the personal independence payment are trained in all aspects of disability; [45102]

(2) what steps he plans to take to ensure that the assessment process for the personal independence payment takes account of the role of the advocate for people who have difficulties in communicating and undertaking questions, such as those with autism; [45103]

(3) what steps he plans to take to ensure that a person with autism who undergoes an assessment for the personal independence payment will have person-centred support when attending an assessment; [45104]

(4) what steps he plans to take to ensure that all personal independence payment assessors will have the multi-disciplinary knowledge required to assess the needs of people with autism; [45105]

(5) what consideration his Department is giving to the needs of people with autism in developing the assessment procedures for the personal independence payment; [45106]

(6) which experts involved in the working group developing the assessment process for the personal independence payment have a specialism in the potential problems faced by individuals in communication and planning a journey, as set out in the consultant document; [45107]

(7) whether any specialists on autism are involved in the group developing the assessment process for the personal independence payment. [45108]

**Maria Miller:** The assessment for personal independence payment is being designed in collaboration with an independent group of specialists in health, social care and disability. Its membership encompasses a wide variety of relevant expertise and reflects a broad range of experience in the needs of disabled people. As well as representatives from RADAR—the Royal Association for Disability Rights—and Equality 2025, the group includes individuals from professions such as occupational therapy, psychiatry, physiotherapy, social work, general practice and community psychiatric nursing. This approach ensures that the initial development work is being undertaken within a holistic view of the impact of disability.

The assessment development group is currently undertaking the early design work on the assessment criteria. Both I and departmental officials have met with the National Autistic Society to discuss our reform proposals and to seek their views on how the new benefit can best support those with autism. Once the broad principles are in place, we will work with the assessment group and disabled people and their organisations on the refinement and testing of the detail of the criteria. We know it is essential that the assessment accurately captures the needs of disabled people with autistic spectrum disorders and this is something that the development group is already considering. We agree with many of the points raised in the National Autistic Society's recent report on disability living allowance reform, "Who benefits?", and we are looking closely at how these recommendations can be incorporated into its design.

We are still considering the delivery model for the personal independence payment assessment and no decisions have yet been taken. We recognise the importance of providing adequate training and guidance for assessors and of ensuring that the assessment process is appropriate to individual's circumstances, including individuals with autistic spectrum disorders. To ensure that we get this reform right, we will continue to work with disabled people and their organisations as the detail of the assessment criteria and its operation is developed and tested.

## Disability Living Allowance

**Bob Blackman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on the provision of mobility allowance for *(a)* those in hospital, *(b)* those moved to a residential home and *(c)* students; and what account he has taken of the degrees of mobility and levels of requirement in each situation in formulating his policy. [41478]

**Maria Miller:** As was announced at publication of the Welfare Reform Bill on 17 February, the Government's intention is to bring in any change to the mobility component as part of the wider reform of disability living allowance (DLA). Consultation on wider reform of DLA with the key proposal of a new benefit to be known as personal independence payment concluded on 18 February. The intention is that all working age recipients of disability living allowance will be reassessed under the conditions of entitlement to personal independence payment from 2013 to establish whether they have entitlement to that payment.

Levels of payment will focus on those who have faced the most challenges in living independent lives. We will consider other directly relevant state funded support which is being made to ensure fairness.

## Disability Living Allowance: Airdrie

**Pamela Nash:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of the working age population of Airdrie and Shotts constituency is in receipt of disability living allowance. [44842]

**Maria Miller:** The information is in the following table:

*Number and proportion of DLA recipients of working age in Airdrie and Shotts constituency*

| | *As at May 2010* |
|---|---|
| Number | 4,010 |
| Proportion (%) | 7.6 |

*Notes:*

1. Number of recipients is rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Proportions are to the nearest decimal place.
3. Figures do not include people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
5. Working age restricts the analysis to males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59.
6. Data are published at:
https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/Default.asp
7. Population estimates are published at:
http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files2/stats/population-estimates/wpc-pop-est-2001-2009.xls

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate 100%WPLS

## Disability Living Allowance: Children

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children with disabilities educated in special schools are in receipt of the mobility component of disability living allowance at the *(a)* lower and *(b)* higher rate. [43697]

**Maria Miller:** The information requested is not available as the number of non residential pupils in special schools is not recorded. This is because it is residence rather than type of school that affects payment of disability living allowance.

There are 2,000 children in residential care (which includes children in residential special schools) of which 1,200 are in receipt of the lower rate mobility component and 800 are in receipt of the higher rate component.

## Disability Living Allowance: Wolverhampton

**Emma Reynolds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Wolverhampton North East constituency receive the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance. [44668]

**Maria Miller:** The information is contained in the following table:

*Disability living allowance recipients with higher rate mobility component May 2010*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Wolverhampton North East parliamentary constituency | 3,250 |

*Notes:*
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. Data are for the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
4. These figures are published at:
http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html

*Source:*
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 100% WPLS

## Employment and Support Allowance

**Jon Cruddas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals to change employment and support allowance to take greater account of the need for support relating to health treatment. [38727]

**Maria Miller:** Anyone claiming ESA will undergo the work capability assessment (WCA). The WCA is based on the premise that eligibility should be based on the way a condition limits functional capability.

Where an individual is undergoing treatment for a health condition or disability, the WCA will take full account of the effects that the treatment has on the individual's functional capability as part of the assessment of eligibility for ESA.

## Employment and Support Allowance: Airdrie

**Pamela Nash:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Airdrie and Shotts constituency have been in receipt of employment and support allowance payments for more than one year. [44784]

**Maria Miller:** The information requested is given as follows:

*Employment and support allowance in Airdrie and Shotts parliamentary constituency May 2010*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Total claimants | 210 |
| Duration of over one year | 1,250 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Employment and support allowance (ESA) replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
3. These data were extracted from the Department's Tabulation tool at:
http://83.244.183.180/5pc/tabtool.html
4. Data include those receiving "credits only".

*Source:*
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 100% WPLS

## Incapacity Benefits

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum period will be between an individual receiving notification of their incapacity benefit reassessment and the date of their initial reassessment. [45023]

**Chris Grayling:** The length of time it will take for a customer to have their incapacity benefits reassessed is dependent upon a range of factors. Among other things, this includes the speed with which the customer returns their medical questionnaire and whether the customer needs to attend a face to face assessment. On average this would normally take around 13 weeks but this may be quicker if a face to face assessment is not required.

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what procedures are in place for incapacity benefit clients who wish to make a complaint about their reassessment. [45024]

**Chris Grayling:** Jobcentre Plus work in partnership with Atos Healthcare, the Department's medical services provider, to deliver the Incapacity Benefit Reassessment Programme.

A customer can raise a complaint about their reassessment through Jobcentre Plus or, where it refers to their medical examination, direct with Atos Healthcare, where the customer's complaint is investigated by Atos under their complaints process. If the customer is still dissatisfied with the outcome, having exhausted the Atos complaints process, they may escalate their complaint to the Jobcentre Plus Chief Executive, who will undertake a further investigation. If the customer is not satisfied with the outcome, they can approach the Independent Case Examiner if their complaint concerns departmental maladministration.

If the complaint refers to action taken by Jobcentre Plus, Jobcentre Plus's own complaint process applies, which culminates in a response from the Chief Executive. If the customer remains dissatisfied, they may also escalate their complaint to the Independent Case Examiner.

## Industrial Health and Safety: Prosecutions

**Katy Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the effect on the number of prosecutions for health and safety offences of reductions in the budget of the Health and Safety Executive. [45511]

**Chris Grayling:** I do not expect there to be any significant effect on the number of prosecutions for health and safety offences because of reductions in the budget of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Almost all of the prosecutions for health and safety offences arise from the investigation of accidents, incidents and complaints. HSE has no plans to reduce the resources available for such investigations.

## International Labour Organisation

**Rushanara Ali:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding his Department provided to the International Labour Organisation in each of the last four years; and how much funding he expects to provide in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15. [45588]

**Chris Grayling:** Figures for past years are in the following table (rounded to the nearest thousand).

*Department for Work and Pensions funding to the International Labour Organisation, 2007-10*

| Calendar year | Assessed contributions to the ILO regular budget (£ million) | Payments to the UN/ILO/ World Bank Youth Employment Network (£) |
|---|---|---|
| 2007 | 9.359 | 50,000 |
| 2008 | 13.295 | 100,000 |
| 2009 | 15.481 | — |
| 2010 | 16.218 | — |

The UK's assessed contribution for calendar year 2011 is around £16.5 million. The final figure my Department will pay in sterling depends on currency exchange rates as the contribution is paid in Swiss francs.

The UK's subscription for future years has not yet been determined and will depend on a number of variables including the ILO's biennial budget proposal, any return of ILO budget surpluses and refunds under the ILO's early payment scheme, and currency exchange rates.

### Jobcentre Plus: Incapacity Benefits

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what order of precedence Jobcentre Plus has set for rolling out its incapacity benefits reassessment programme. [45018]

**Chris Grayling:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Darra Singh:*

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to reply to your question asking what order of precedence Jobcentre Plus has set for rolling out its Incapacity Benefits reassessment programme. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Customers receiving Incapacity Benefit and Income Support paid on the grounds of illness or disability, currently attend Personal Capability Assessments (PCA) to determine and review their entitlement for benefit. The order in which customers will be selected for IB(IS)reassessment will be based upon the date on which they would otherwise have been called for their next PCA. Customers currently claiming Severe Disablement Allowance will be reassessed at the end of the reassessment process.

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether additional *(a)* staffing and *(b)* resources will be provided to Jobcentre Plus to undertake incapacity benefit reassessments in areas where a backlog of appeals exists. [45022]

**Chris Grayling:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Darra Singh:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about whether additional (a) staffing and (b) resources will be provided to Jobcentre Plus to undertake Incapacity Benefit reassessments in areas where a backlog of appeals exists. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

In total around 1100 Jobcentre Plus staff will be allocated to Incapacity Benefit reassessment. These staff will be split across the Jobcentres, Contact Centres and Benefit Centres to deliver the end to end reassessment process. Of these staff, 150 will be allocated to appeals work, namely the preparation and referral of appeals to the Tribunal Service.

These staffing and resource allocations are in line with anticipated numbers of appeals arising from the reassessment of Incapacity Benefit.

Resources will be made available separately for the Tribunal Service to process Incapacity Benefit reassessment appeals.

### Jobseeker's Allowance: Cancer

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cancer patients were found *(a)* still to have limited capability for work-related activity and retained in the support group, *(b)* to have limited capability for work and placed in the work-related activity group and *(c)* to be fit for work and placed on jobseeker's allowance following reassessment in each of the last four years. [45523]

**Chris Grayling:** The information requested is shown in the following table:

| *Assessment quarter* | *Support group* | *Work related activity group* | *Fit for work* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *2008* | | | |
| November | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| *2009* | | | |
| February | 880 | 140 | 70 |
| May | 1,770 | 350 | 360 |
| August | 2,390 | 520 | 700 |
| November | 2,690 | 580 | 670 |
| *2010* | | | |
| February | 2,520 | 590 | 600 |
| May | 2,660 | 640 | 590 |
| August | 2,870 | 740 | 710 |
| Total | 15,830 | 3,570 | 3,690 |

This represents the DWP decision at initial assessment by the quarter in which the assessment was completed up to the end of August 2010. Repeat assessments and clerical assessments where the result cannot be determined from DWP benefits data are excluded from these figures.

The numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.

The cases have been selected where the primary condition of the person claiming is cancer. For most claimants this information is predominantly taken from the information recorded on the medical certificate provided by the GP when someone first makes a claim for employment and support allowance (ESA). It is based on the primary condition of the person claiming and represents what their GP considers to be the main reason the person cannot work at that time.

In 2010, this information was transferred to central administrative databases for all claims still live in November 2009 and new claims thereafter. For some claims that closed before November 2009 we have used other sources to determine medical condition such as that recorded at the WCA or that recorded by Jobcentre Plus at first contact. However, in some cases the information is missing, particularly for ESA claims that closed before November 2009.

The information presented is consistent with the information in Table 2 in the report 'Employment and Support Allowance: Work Capability Assessment by Health Condition and Functional Impairment: Official Statistics: January 2011', a copy of which can be found at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/esa_wca_25012011.pdf

## Motability

**Mr Buckland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the future of the Motability scheme following introduction of the personal independence payment. [44819]

**Maria Miller:** While this Department works closely with Motability and facilitates the operation of the scheme, Motability it is an independent charity and DWP Ministers are not directly involved in determining scheme policy.

As stated in the recent consultation document on Disability Living Allowance Reform, we will work with Motability under the reformed system of personal independence payment.

## Personal Independence Payment

**Mr Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reason he has proposed that six months must elapse before a person can claim the personal independence payment; and if he will make a statement. [46370]

**Maria Miller** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]*: We propose that in order to qualify for personal independence payment, the individual must have met the conditions of entitlement to a specific rate of the daily living or mobility component during the six months preceding the date they become entitled. This is intended to distinguish between a long-term impairment or health condition—for which financial support through this benefit may be appropriate—and shorter term conditions where other support mechanisms exist.

The first six months of a disability may well attract additional costs but those may be met through other mechanisms such as health care travel costs, free prescriptions or aids and adaptations provided by the NHS or the local authority. Individuals may also be entitled to a range of social security benefits depending on their circumstances during this period.

## Remploy

**Kate Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many public procurement contracts with each *(a)* Government department and *(b)* local authority have been awarded to Remploy since 2008; and what the monetary value was of such contracts. [41414]

**Maria Miller:** Remploy Enterprise Businesses and Employment Services have a large number of contracts with a wide range of public bodies. The following tables provide details of contracts awarded to Remploy's Enterprise Businesses and Employment Services since April 2008, either held directly with Government Departments (including bodies that they sponsor including non-departmental public bodies) and local authorities and also contracts held with third parties on behalf of public bodies.

*1. Remploy Enterprise Businesses*

*(a) Contracts with Government Departments*

| *Government Department* | *Number of contracts* | *Total value of contracts April 2008 to March 2011 (£000)* |
|---|---|---|
| Department for Business, Innovation and Skills | 1 | 252 |
| Department for Culture, Media and Sport | 1 | 18 |
| Department for Education | 1 | 43,535 |
| Department for Work and Pensions | 2 | 6,669 |
| Department of Health (201 orders with hospitals and health authorities) | 1 | 6,100 |
| Department of Transport | 1 | 10 |
| Foreign Office | 1 | 150 |
| HM Treasury | 1 | 29 |
| Home Office (69 orders with police forces and authorities) | 1 | 20,227 |
| Ministry of Defence | 1 | 5,982 |
| Ministry of Justice | 1 | 989 |
| Scottish Government | 1 | 23 |
| Welsh Government | 1 | 110 |
| Total | 14 | 84,094 |

*(b) Contracts with local authorities*

| *Local council* | *Number of contracts* | *Total value of contracts April 2008 to March 2011 (£000)* |
|---|---|---|
| Angell Town, Hertfordshire and Loughborough CCTV | 1 | 337 |
| Clydebank CCTV | 1 | 366 |
| Cotswold District Council | 1 | 33 |
| Corby Borough Council | 1 | 365 |
| East Staffordshire Borough Council | 1 | 455 |
| Eastleigh Borough Council | 1 | 476 |
| Great Yarmouth Borough Council | 1 | 274 |
| Industrial Estate Partnership Business Improvement District (including Bolton MBC) | 1 | 483 |
| Kirklees Council | 1 | 18 |
| Newark and Sherwood District Council | 1 | 396 |
| South Staffordshire District Council | 1 | 263 |
| Total | 11 | 3,466 |

*2. Remploy Employment Services*

*(a) Government departments*

| *Government Department* | *Number of contracts* | *Total value of contracts April 2008 to March 2011 (£000)* |
|---|---|---|
| Department for Work and Pensions | 4 | 20,285 |
| ESEP Ltd. on behalf of Scottish Government | 2 | 863 |
| Government Office for the North West | 1 | 34 |
| Learning and Skills Council | 14 | 842 |
| Ministry of Justice—Yorkshire and Humberside | 1 | 326 |
| National Offender Management Service Leicestershire Rutland Probation Trust | 1 | 8 |
| Skills Funding Agency | 1 | 560 |
| Welsh European Funding Office | 3 | 24,410 |
| Total | 27 | 47,378 |

*(b) Local authorities*

| *Local council* | *Number of contracts* | *Total value of contracts April 2008 to March 2011 (£000)* |
|---|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham Council | 2 | 59 |
| Birmingham City Council | 2 | 91 |
| Coventry City Council | 2 | 264 |
| Cumbria County Council | 2 | 49 |
| Derby Council | 1 | 79 |
| Dorset County Council | 1 | 13 |
| East Durham Council | 1 | 45 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire Council | 1 | 179 |
| Five Host Boroughs—London | 1 | 31 |
| Huddersfield Council | 1 | 270 |
| Leicester City Council | 2 | 113 |
| Liverpool City Council | 5 | 220 |
| London Borough of Hounslow Council | 1 | 23 |
| London Borough of Tower Hamlets Council | 1 | 3 |
| London Councils | 1 | 3 |
| Manchester City Council | 1 | 1 |
| Newcastle City Council | 1 | 42 |
| North Lanarkshire Council | 1 | 231 |
| Renfrewshire Council | 2 | 69 |
| Salford Council | 1 | 426 |
| Sheffield City Council | 4 | 431 |
| South Lanarkshire Council | 1 | 555 |
| Stoke on Trent City Council | 1 | 2 |
| Sunderland City Council | 1 | 93 |
| Wirral Council | 2 | 688 |
| Total | 39 | 3,980 |

*Notes:*
1. All tables cover the period April 2008 to March 2011. The contract value represents the sales value derived within the period covered (with estimates for the last two months of this financial year) and not the full total contract value.
2. The tables include the public body that contract is now held with if the public body has changed through machinery of Government changes.
3. The tables include public bodies that no longer exist if the contract has been completed, for example, Learning and Skills Council.

**Kate Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many contracts Remploy have been awarded since 2008; what the monetary value of such contracts was; and what proportion of those contracts was subsequently passed to private companies. [41416]

**Maria Miller:** The information requested is provided in the following table. Remploy Enterprise Businesses and Employment Services have a large number of contracts with a wide range of organisations which support delivery of increasing the number of disabled people into work.

| *Remploy area of business* | *Number of contracts* | *Total value of contracts April 2008 to March 2011 (£000)* | *Proportion sub-contracted to third parties (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Employment Services | 82 | 55,127 | 33 |
| Enterprise Businesses | 127 | 348,892 | 2 |

*Note:*
The total contract value represents the sales value derived within the period covered (with estimates for the last two months of this financial year) and not the full total contract value.

## Remploy: Pay

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the merits of awarding a pay increase to employees of Remploy. [44517]

**Maria Miller:** Remploy, as a non-departmental public body, must live within the HM Treasury guidance on pay that is issued annually. Contractual arrangements between Remploy and individual staff, including the level of staff remuneration, are a matter for the company to decide.

This Government believe all Departments, including non-departmental public bodies, have to show pay restraint in the current economic climate. The approach to pay and bonuses for the current and previous years was negotiated by the previous Administration.

The 2010-11 pay remit will be agreed shortly. We have recently agreed that the company can discuss a pay increase of £250 for staff earning less than £21,000 with Trade Union representatives. This is in line with the current Treasury guidelines and payments are expected to be made shortly.

The Treasury guidance for 2011-12 has recently been issued to Departments. We are working with Remploy to ensure that appropriate pay restraint is applied in 2011-12 and for future years.

## Social Security Benefits

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to encourage the take-up of benefits that are unclaimed by pensioners. [45050]

**Steve Webb:** We want to ensure that older people receive the help they are entitled to. The Pension, Disability and Carers Service (PDCS) works closely with local organisations to encourage and support people to take up the benefits they are entitled to.

They also target activity on engaging with people who may be eligible to encourage them to claim. For example, when a customer makes a claim to state pension or reports a change in their circumstances, a customer adviser will discuss a pension credit application with those who may be entitled.

In addition, we have developed a free pension credit 'toolkit' providing information guides and templates for people who work with vulnerable pensioners to encourage them to promote pension credit.

We are conducting a modest research study to help build the evidence base on how the information that we routinely collect can be used more effectively to ensure pensioners get the help that is available through pension credit. This study is a first step in seeing if this type of approach might be possible in the longer term.

**Yvette Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men were in receipt of (i) disability living allowance, (ii) income support and (iii) jobseeker's allowance on the most recent date for which figures are available. [46680]

**Maria Miller:** The information is in the following tables.

*Total DLA and IS claimants, May 2010*

| *Benefit* | *Total* | *Female* | *Male* |
|---|---|---|---|
| DLA | 3,157,310 | 1,576,530 | 1,580,780 |

*Total DLA and IS claimants, May 2010*

| *Benefit* | *Total* | *Female* | *Male* |
|---|---|---|---|
| IS | 1,852,270 | 1,214,600 | 637,670 |

*Notes:*
1. DLA and IS case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10, JSA case loads are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. DLA totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example, if they are in hospital.
3. DLA and IS figures are published at:
http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html
4. JSA figures are published at:
http://www.nomisweb.co.uk
*Source:*
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 100% WPLS.

*Total JSA claimants, January 2011*

| *Benefit* | *Total* | *Female* | *Male* |
|---|---|---|---|
| JSA | 1,400,600 | 433,800 | 966,800 |

*Notes:*
1. DLA and IS case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10, JSA case loads are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. DLA totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example, if they are in hospital.
3. DLA and IS figures are published at:
http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html
4. JSA figures are published at:
http://www.nomisweb.co.uk
*Source:*
Seasonally adjusted count of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems.

## Social Security Benefits: Autism

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department takes to ensure that officials assessing entitlement to benefits are appropriately trained in *(a)* understanding and *(b)* communicating with people with autism. [44620]

**Maria Miller:** The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) policy is to develop its staff who have a wide variety of different roles in the skills required to support a range of customers and to respect their individual needs, including those related to their health conditions. This approach ensures that they are equipped to deal with a diverse set of circumstances whilst treating customers as individuals. For this reason, there is no single set of procedures to be followed which solely focus on understanding and communicating with people with autism.

The learning programme for Jobcentre Plus focuses on raising awareness of the customer's personal circumstances and also recognises that disabilities and health conditions can affect individuals in different ways and will change over time. Guidance is also available for Jobcentre Plus staff which includes background information on a number of conditions relating to hidden impairments such as: autistic spectrum conditions including Asperger's syndrome; attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; dyslexia and speech and language difficulties.

Furthermore, Jobcentre Plus run a seminar to support staff better understand the implications of current disability/diversity legislation in relation to their job roles when working with disabled customers, colleagues and employers. The 'Raising the Game on Disability' seminar aims to dispel the many myths and misconceptions around the disability agenda in a safe and supportive environment as staff are encouraged to ask questions and share their personal experiences of disability. Part of the seminar includes a discussion about communication, language and etiquette including working with customers with mental ill health, autistic spectrum conditions and learning disabilities.

Jobcentre Plus has also put in place a mental health co-ordinator in each district. Their role is to: improve and facilitate links between local mental health and employment services; identify the availability of local support that advisers may signpost customers to; provide a support role to advisers who are working with customers with mental health conditions, or learning difficulties; and influence local partners to consider whether the help currently available for those with mental health conditions or learning difficulties satisfies local needs and encourage them to address any gaps or shortfall in provision.

The Pension, Disability and Carers Service (PDCS) have specific learning provided by the Professionalism in Decision Making and Appeals (PIDMA) body. The course is Understanding Working Age and Child Customers which has a section on understanding the impact of a learning disability specifically covering autistic spectrum disorders. This course is for all appropriate disability living allowance and attendance allowance decision-making staff.

The above learning is being modified and updated to reflect the newly widened responsibilities of the Local Service Customer Liaison Managers (CLMs) to deal with visits, where required, to all of the Department's "vulnerable client groups". The new course is intended to build on that by providing learning more specifically tailored to visiting officers and as part of whole suite on new learning products for local service to be delivered from late autumn 2011 onwards.

Since February 2010, DWP formed a National Hidden Impairment strategy group involving medical professionals and experts in the fields of hidden impairments; disability specific organisations such as the National Autistic Society; Autism Plus and Addept; and involving service users with autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) conditions. The purpose of the group is to improve the customer service experience for individuals with these conditions. The group is currently producing a further series of guidance in the form of checklists to ensure that staff feel confident in their ability to anticipate appropriate reasonable adjustment solutions at relevant stages of the customer journey. These checklists have been written by medical experts and will be available by the end of March 2011.

**John Glen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps the Government plans to take to consider the needs of people with autism when designing the assessment procedure for the proposed personal independence payment; [45948]

(2) if he will ensure that all personal independence payment assessors have the requisite multi-disciplinary knowledge to assess the needs of people with autism. [45949]

**Maria Miller:** The assessment is being developed in collaboration with an independent group of specialists in health, social care and disability, including disabled people. This group is currently undertaking the early design work on the assessment criteria. Once the broad principles are in place, we will work with the assessment group and disabled people and their organisations on the refinement and testing of the detail of the criteria. We know it is essential that it accurately captures the needs of disabled people with autistic spectrum disorders and this is something that the development group is considering.

We are still considering the most appropriate delivery model for the personal independence payment assessment and no decisions have yet been taken. We recognise the importance of providing adequate training and guidance for assessors and of ensuring that the assessment process is appropriate to individual's circumstances, including individuals with autistic spectrum disorders. Both I and departmental officials have met with the National Autistic Society to discuss our reform proposals and to seek their views on how the new benefit can best support those with autism. We agree with many of the points raised in the National Autistic Society's recent report on DLA reform "Who benefits?" and we are looking closely at how these recommendations can be incorporated into its design. We are keen to continue to work with disabled people and their organisations as the detail of the assessment criteria and its operation is developed and tested.

### Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether any bonuses were paid to private companies engaged as part of the operation of the trial of the reassessments for customers receiving incapacity benefit and income support in north east Scotland. [37627]

**Maria Miller:** No bonuses have been paid to any private companies involved in the trial nor are there any plans to do so. Atos Healthcare, who were awarded the Department's medical services contract under the previous Administration, will continue to be funded under the existing contractual agreement to deliver the medical services in the trial areas.

### Social Security Benefits: Older People

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to simplify the benefits claims process for pensioners. [45052]

**Steve Webb:** The claims process has already been simplified and pensioners can claim housing benefit and council tax benefit, alongside pension credit, in a single phone call without the need for a signed claim form. Calls to the 0800 claims number from a BT landline or from the six largest mobile phone networks are free.

Work is ongoing to improve the state pension "Invitation to Claim" pack. This includes introducing a better structure to make it easier to use, simplifying the content and adding a tier of signposting to Directgov, pension leaflets and relevant partner organisations to help customers find any further information they may need. An interim solution was delivered in November 2010 and further changes are planned from August 2011.

In addition, a number of significant improvements are planned for pension credit new claim, changes and annual uprating letters. These are currently under development and are expected to be in use by May 2011.

Further changes are also being made to the information on Directgov with good results to date. Customer satisfaction is up by over 10 percentage points since the project started.

State pension online provides customers living in the UK, who wish to use the internet, with a swift and convenient way of claiming their state pension via Directgov. Where possible the service will present them with their state pension award details in real time. This service is available 24 hours a day. Customers who do not wish to complete their claim in one go are able to save their claim and return to complete it later.

Additionally, later this year, the majority of Jobcentre Plus customers who are eligible for the state pension will automatically transfer from working age benefits to their state pension without the need for a claim. This service will reuse information already held about them by DWP and will provide a much more effective customer service to approximately 200,000 people every year.

### Social Security Benefits: Public Expenditure

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the likely savings to the public purse of the proposed cap on the annual level of benefits payments per household over the comprehensive spending review period. [44007]

**Chris Grayling:** The spending review 2010 announced that household benefit payments would be capped from 2013 at around £500 per week for couple and lone parent households and around £350 per week for single adult households. War widows, households which include a member who is receiving disability living allowance or constant attendance allowance, and working households claiming the working tax credit will be exempt from the cap.

If the benefit cap were applied in full, as described in the supporting documentation for the spending review 2010 the savings to the Exchequer are estimated to be £225 million in 2013-14 and £270 million in 2014-15.

We are looking at ways of easing the transition for families and providing assistance in hard cases.

### State Retirement Pensions

**Mark Durkan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what methodology his Department uses to determine the level of contracted-out deductions from the state second pension; [45439]

(2) for what reason the level of contracted-out deductions from the state second pension of people whose occupational pension has not increased is increased annually. [45615]

**Steve Webb:** The additional state pension payable to a person contracted out of the state earnings-related pension scheme (SERPS) through a defined benefit (or salary-related) occupational pension scheme between 1978 and 1997 is reduced by a contracted-out deduction (COD) equal to the level of the guaranteed minimum pension (GMP), payable by the scheme at 60 for women and 65 for men (subject to the total deduction not being greater than the individual's notional additional state pension accrued between 1978 and 1997).

Each GMP is calculated in a broadly similar way to the additional state pension but based on earnings on which contracted-out national insurance contributions were paid.

A person who contracted out of SERPS under a defined contribution (or money purchase) arrangement from 1988 onwards does not accrue a GMP as scheme benefits are dependent on investment returns and annuity rates. The additional state pension paid to such a person is reduced by an amount equivalent to the GMP that would have accrued had he or she been contracted out through a defined benefit scheme, although the actual pension paid may be higher or lower than the contracted-out deduction. However, calculating the COD in this way ensures that people are treated in the same way, regardless of how they were contracted out.

GMPs, and therefore contracted-out deductions, accrued from 1988 onwards receive limited price indexation and so increase in most years. However, pensions or annuities bought from defined contribution contracted-out schemes since April 2006 do not have to provide for any indexation. Individuals can choose to buy a flat-rate annuity which will have a higher starting payment than an escalating annuity but not increase over time. This means that in these cases it would be possible for the COD to increase while the occupational pension remains the same.

### State Retirement Pensions: Livingston

**Graeme Morrice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women in Livingston constituency will be affected by his proposals to raise the state pension age for women. [45647]

**Steve Webb:** This information is not available.

On the basis of the mid-2009 General Register Office for Scotland population estimates, we estimate that around 8,200 women in the West Lothian local authority area could be affected by the proposals to rise the state pension age.

### Work Programme Contracts

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what date he expects to announce the successful Work programme bidders for each contract package area. [45133]

**Chris Grayling:** This has been a very successful competition and we have received 177 bids.

The announcement of 'preferred bidders' will take place in the first part of April 2011: both successful and unsuccessful bidders will be notified and results will be posted on the DWP website. In addition, results will also be made available on 'The Contracts Finder' website which builds on the Department's commitment to transparency.

## PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

### Environmental Audit Select Committee

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission how much National Audit Office resource was made available to support the work of the Environmental Audit Committee in the latest period for which figures are available. [45245]

**Mr Tyrie:** In the 2009-10 financial year, the full cost to the National Audit Office of supporting the work of the Environmental Audit Committee was £283,000.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Anti-Semitism

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will undertake a survey to ascertain the prevalence of anti-Semitism in each *(a)* age group, *(b)* socio-economic group and *(c)* region; and if he will make a statement. [45602]

**Andrew Stunell:** We have no plans to undertake a survey to ascertain the prevalence of anti-Semitism, as we believe this is not necessarily the best way to measure anti-Semitism. We do record anti-Semitic crime at the national level which is broken down by police force area. These figures were published in November 2010. Full details can be found at:

http://www.acpo.police.uk/asp/policies/Data/084a_Recorded_Hate_Crime_-_January_to_December_2009.pdf

### Community Development

**Martin Caton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to initiate consultation on the introduction of regulations contemplated under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. [46197]

**Greg Clark:** The Government will shortly publish a consultation seeking views on the contents of new regulations to be made under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007, and will make a statement in due course.

### Community Relations: English Language

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to promote the use of the English language in the UK for the purposes of community cohesion; and how much funding he allocated to this objective in the latest period for which figures are available. [46134]

**Andrew Stunell** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]*: The Government recognise the role of good English language skills in enabling speakers of other languages to contribute to the economy and play a full part in society.

On 29 November the Secretary of State for the Home Department, the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), introduced a new language requirement for those seeking entry to the UK as either a spouse or civil partner, fiancé or proposed civil partner, unmarried partner or same sex partner of a British citizen or someone who is present and settled in the UK. Pre entry language requirements are also in place for migrants seeking visas for work or study purposes via the points based system. Migrants applying for settlement or citizenship are required to demonstrate knowledge of English language and life in the UK.

In 2008-09—the most recent data available—£225 million was spent by further education institutions on English as a Second Language (ESOL). From August

2011, full Government funding will be provided for ESOL to unemployed people in receipt of jobseeker's allowance or in the employment and support allowance work-related activity group, where English language skills have been identified as a barrier to entering employment. We will also continue to pay 50% of ESOL course fees for people who are settled here. We will no longer fund ESOL courses delivered in the workplace.

The Government recently announced that over £7 million in match funding is available through the European refugee fund 2010 and European integration fund 2010. Projects for teaching English language are eligible for both funds.

In schools, newly arrived pupils are usually given additional help in learning English by specialist teachers or by bilingual classroom assistants. Since 1999, the Department for Education has made available an Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant (EMAG) to help narrow achievement gaps for black and minority ethnic pupils and cover some of the costs of additional support needed for bilingual learners. In 2010-11 just under £207 million was paid to local authorities through the EMAG.

### Jewish Community

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the number of *(a)* synagogues and *(b)* Jewish cemeteries in each local authority area that have been desecrated in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Jewish community on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [45604]

**Andrew Stunell:** The Department for Communities and Local Government does not hold any information as to the number of synagogues and Jewish cemeteries desecrated in each local authority. However, data are available in the three police force areas which have the largest Jewish communities. These data would classify the desecration of Jewish cemeteries and synagogues as criminal damage. Whenever a critical incident occurs related to either desecration of Jewish cemeteries or synagogues, the National Community Tension Team ensure that they link in with the Community Security Trust to reassure the Jewish community and ensure that each incident is investigated.

### Private Rented Housing

**Justin Tomlinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers local authorities have in relation to the management of private rented housing; and what information his Department holds on the use of such powers. [46519]

**Andrew Stunell:** Local authorities have extensive powers under the Housing Act 2004 to help improve the management of privately rented properties. They are under a statutory duty to license certain high risk privately rented houses in multiple occupation. They also have discretionary powers to extend licensing to other types of privately rented property.

Local authorities also have powers to assess the risks and hazards in privately rented properties using the housing health and safety rating system. If a property is found to contain serious hazards, the local authority has a duty to take the most appropriate action. This system provides an important safety net, ensuring that homes are safe.

The Department does not hold information on the use of these powers centrally.

### Town Centres

**Mr Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps he has taken to promote *(a)* the regeneration of town centres and *(b)* high street shops; and if he will make a statement. [46500]

**Greg Clark** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* The Government are fully committed to supporting town centres. Town centres are at the heart of our communities and neighbourhoods and have an important role to play in the growth of local economies. Through our new approach to planning and regeneration we will provide residents and local authorities with local rewards and incentives to enable them to drive regeneration and growth that is right for their needs.

We are giving new powers and rights for local councils and communities to determine and influence what happens in their area, for example, through neighbourhood planning, local enterprise partnerships, the power of competence and community right to buy. We are increasing local control of public finance by de-ring fencing and enabling local pooling of budgets. We are offering powerful incentives for housing and business growth, through the new homes bonus and changes to the community infrastructure levy and we are considering options to enable councils to retain locally-raised business rates and to grant business rate discounts if they wish.

The "town centre first" policy will continue to be strongly expressed in national planning policy currently under review through the National Planning Policy Framework. The Government's firm intention in reviewing the policy is to make it more accessible and clearer. We will publish, and present to Parliament, the National Planning Policy Framework by April 2012.

## TREASURY

### Aggregates Levy: Northern Ireland

**Ms Ritchie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what sites subject to the aggregates levy are registered in Northern Ireland. [46877]

**Justine Greening:** Of approximately 680 registrations for the aggregates levy in the UK, around 150 operators are registered as having their principal place of business in Northern Ireland. Some operators registered elsewhere in the UK may also have sites in Northern Ireland.

**Ms Ritchie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which sites subject to the aggregates levy in Northern Ireland claimed relief for the extraction of shale material in each of the last four years; what confirmation has been sought from such sites that shale is being extracted; what estimate he has made of the number of false claims made by aggregate companies with respect to shale extraction in the latest period for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the volume of shale involved in such false claims. [46878]

**Justine Greening:** In order to minimise the reporting burdens on business, registered persons supplying materials that are exempt under the aggregates levy are not required to identify the nature of the material on returns. Data on which operators have claimed exemption on shale are therefore unavailable.

Registered operators are subject to risk-based assurance activity, and HMRC act on intelligence received, visiting registered persons and making scientific referrals as appropriate.

In the past four years the visit programme to quarries in Northern Ireland has resulted in nine scientific referrals of material described as shale, five of which resulted in assessments for additional levy due. The combined volume involved was around 480,000 tons.

### Air Force: Military Bases

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings the Chief Secretary to the Treasury has had with *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials of the Ministry of Defence in respect of that Department's RAF basing review. [46213]

**Danny Alexander:** I have regular conversations with the Secretary of State for Defence on a wide range of issues.

### Child Tax Credit

**Kate Green:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of families *(a)* in total, *(b)* in each nation and region and *(c)* in each constituency who will be affected by the proposed reduction in child care costs paid through the child care element of working tax credit. [46051]

**Mr Gauke:** No estimate has been made.

The reduction of child care support to 70% from 80% is part of a range of reforms to the tax credits system announced at the spending review. There are interactions between the measures so estimating the impact of just one measure does not give a clear indication of the full impact on households.

The Government published estimates of the distributional impact of the whole package of announced tax and benefit measures which can be found at:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_annexb.pdf

### Child Trust Fund: Children in Care

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent in administration costs to assess for the purposes of the Child Trust Fund the needs of children in care living in Scotland in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [46312]

**Mr Gauke** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* We do not hold figures for HMRC's administration costs in respect of looked after children living in Scotland. But HMRC's overall administration costs are published in the annual CTF statistics at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/stats.htm

Scottish local authorities and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) incur administration costs in setting up and making payments into CTF accounts for looked after children living in Scotland. Also, where there is no one with parental responsibility for the child, the account is managed by the Accountant of Court in Scotland and their administration costs reimbursed by HMRC. The Accountant of Court was reimbursed (net of VAT) £18,411 for 2008-09 and £18,882 for 2009-10 by HMRC. The figure for 2010-11 is not yet available.

In addition, local authorities have received funding from central Government of £22 per payment towards the cost of identifying and making payments of £100 to the CTFs of every looked after child.

### Departmental Internet

**Tessa Jowell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse was of the Spending Review Challenge. [46427]

**Danny Alexander:** The Government committed to ensuring the spending review process was open, responsible and fair and to engaging the whole public in the difficult decisions that had to be taken. The Spending Challenge was an important part of this, attracting over 100,000 suggestions from public sector workers and members of the public on how Government can do more with less.

The cost of establishing and operating the Spending Challenge website was £19,300. Related staff and process costs were met using existing resources and from existing budgets.

### Fiscal Policy

**Nicola Blackwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fiscal steps he is taking to incentivise *(a)* research and development and *(b)* innovation. [46040]

**Mr Gauke:** The Government incentivise investment in R and D activity through the R and D tax credit schemes. The schemes provided an estimated £980 million of support for innovative UK companies in 2008-09.

The Government are introducing a reduced tax rate for profits from patents, known as the Patent Box, which will reward successful innovation in patented technology and encourage innovative companies to invest in the UK.

### Income Tax: Northern Ireland

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* North Down constituency were affected by the introduction of the 50% rate of income tax in April 2010. [46781]

**Mr Gauke:** The number of people in Northern Ireland liable to income tax at the 50% additional rate in 2010-11 is published, along with estimates for other UK Government Office Regions, on the HM Revenue and Customs website in table 2.2 which is available at the following address:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/table2-2.pdf

Estimates are based on the 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes, projected using economic assumptions consistent with the Office for Budget Responsibility's Autumn Forecast 2010.

Reliable estimates are not available at the parliamentary constituency level, due to small survey sample sizes and significant uncertainties in projections for small geographical areas.

### Licensing: Electronic Government

**Andrew Griffiths:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many premises licence applications have been made through the Business Link website to date; and how many such applications Business Link has forwarded to local authorities. [46450]

**Mr Gauke:** 267 premises licence applications have been made to date using the application forms on the businesslink.gov.uk website. All such applications have been forwarded to the relevant local authority.

### Maternity Payments

**Yvette Cooper:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many women were in receipt of *(a)* Health in Pregnancy Grant and *(b)* Sure Start Maternity Grant on the most recent date for which figures are available. [46509]

**Mr Gauke:** Information on the number of women in receipt of the health in pregnancy grant is only available at disproportionate cost.

The number of Sure Start maternity grants paid in the financial year 2009-10 in Great Britain was 274,000.

*Notes:*

1. The number is for all awards, irrespective of whether the award was made to the mother or her partner.

2. The number has been rounded to the nearest 1,000.

*Source:*

Annual report by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the Social Fund 2009-10.

### National Insurance: Tax Credits

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many temporary national insurance numbers were issued by HM Revenue and Customs in each year since 1997; and what proportion of those numbers were for tax credit purposes. [45842]

**Mr Gauke:** HM Revenue and Customs only issue temporary national insurance numbers for tax credit purposes. These are issued once the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) have confirmed that a claimant has passed an evidence of identity test administered by Jobcentre Plus. The present system of tax credits commenced in April 2003 and the numbers issued are detailed in the following table:

| *Tax year* | *Number issued* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 16,000 |
| 2004-05 | 6,000 |
| 2005-06 | 23,000 |
| 2006-07 | 20,000 |
| 2007-08 | 17,000 |
| 2008-09 | 17,000 |
| 2009-10 | 13,000 |

### Stamp Duty Land Tax

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many properties sold in *(a)* Bury St Edmunds constituency and *(b)* Suffolk county council area attracted stamp duty land tax levied at (i) zero per cent., (ii) one per cent., (iii) three per cent. and (iv) four per cent. in each of the last three years. [45841]

**Justine Greening:** Estimates of the number of property transactions for Bury St Edmunds parliamentary constituency and Suffolk county are given in the following table, grouped by stamp duty land tax band.

*Property transactions attracting rate based entirely on consideration*

| | *0% rate*[1] | *1% rate*[2] | *3% rate*[3] | *4% rate*[4] | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Bury St Edmunds* | | | | | |
| 2007-08 | 890 | 2,400 | 780 | 160 | 4,220 |
| 2008-09 | 650 | 1,060 | 300 | 80 | 2,090 |
| 2009-10 | 770 | 1,500 | 340 | 80 | 2,700 |
| *Suffolk* | | | | | |
| 2007-08 | 5,400 | 10,400 | 3,300 | 880 | 20,000 |
| 2008-09 | 5,800 | 3,800 | 1,600 | 510 | 11,700 |
| 2009-10 | 5,000 | 6,700 | 1,900 | 460 | 14,100 |

[1] Residential threshold is £125,000 in all years, non-residential threshold is £150,000 in all years. The temporary increase in the residential threshold from £125,000 to £175,000 between September 2008 and December 2009 is ignored.
[2] £125,001 to £250,000 for residential transactions, £150,001 to £250,000 for non-residential transactions in all years.
[3] £250,001 to £500,000.
[4] £500,001+.

Transactions with a value under £40,000, the current stamp duty land tax notification threshold, are excluded from figures for all years.

The number of transactions bearing stamp duty will be lower than the number shown in the non-zero bands due various applicable reliefs, (e.g. disadvantaged area relief, group relief, registered social landlord relief). There are also some lease transactions which fall in the zero per cent. band on account of consideration, but which bear stamp duty on the lease rental.

### Tax Avoidance: Northern Ireland

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue accrued to the Exchequer from actions against tax avoidance in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [46736]

**Mr Gauke:** Information on tax revenue in the UK is not collected by reference to its geographical source. Consequently, it is not possible to allocate tax revenue to particular regions of the UK.

### Taxation: Banks

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department estimates it will collect in tax revenues from the banking sector in 2010-11; and what proportion of the tax collected from the banking sector it estimates will be non-payroll tax. [42282]

**Mr Hoban:** HM Revenue and Customs would expect large banking groups to pay around £20 billion in 2010-11, of which 80% is from pay-as-you-earn and national insurance contributions and 20% is from corporation tax.

### Taxation: Business

**Mike Freer:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects on business confidence of the decision of HM Revenue and Customs to set out details of how they will undertake a new programme of business record checks prior to the completion of the consultation on such checks. [46517]

**Mr Gauke:** The programme of business record checks (BRC) will not commence until completion of the formal consultation through the consultation document issued on 19 December 2010. Following that consultation, and taking into account the responses received, HMRC will trial the BRC process using a 'test and learn' approach to ensure that this is supporting businesses by either giving them assurances regarding the standard of their record-keeping, or alternatively advising them on areas of those records where improvements can be made. The test and learn will also be an opportunity to obtain early feedback.

**Mike Freer:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons it is proposed that business record checks will be undertaken by staff of HM Revenue and Customs using powers to enter a person's business premises under Schedule 36 to the Finance Act 2008. [46518]

**Mr Gauke:** HMRC's random inquiry programme indicates that poor record keeping is a problem in around 40% of all small and medium enterprise cases (circa five million). Research by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development indicates that poor record keeping generally leads to an underassessment of tax even where there is an audit-type check into a return for the period covered by such records. On this basis, poor business record keeping is responsible for a tax loss in up to two million SME cases annually.

The loss of tax through poor record keeping, particularly in the current economic climate, cannot continue and HMRC is, therefore, determined to use the powers at its disposal to improve business record keeping and so reduce the loss to the Exchequer that stems from poor business records.

By carrying out tests on the business records, the HMRC officer may identify weaknesses and shortcomings in those records. When such weaknesses/shortcomings are identified they will be highlighted to, and discussed with, the customer and possible improvements may be identified. These checks will not impose a higher level of record keeping requirements than would be appropriate for the size and nature of the business. Identification of record keeping issues may reduce the future cost of compliance for business through issues being identified at an earlier stage with contemporaneous records being reviewed.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer Question *(a)* 40990 and *(b)* 40992, on national insurance, tabled on 10 February 2011 for answer on 14 February. [46786]

**Mr Gauke:** I have replied to the right hon. Member's questions.

## WALES

### Departmental Land

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if she will take steps to reduce the size of her Department's estate; and if she will make a statement. [46742]

**Mr David Jones:** The Wales Office occupies a small building in London and half a floor of rented office space in Cardiff. The estate is proportional to the number of staff and while there are currently no plans to reduce this already small estate further, the matter will be kept under review.

### Departmental Regulation

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what regulations her Department introduced between 4 February 2011 and 28 February 2011; [47028]

(2) what regulations her Department revoked between 4 February 2011 and 28 February 2011. [47030]

**Mr David Jones:** None.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Census: Publicity

**David Cairns:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if the Government will allocate part of the budget for the 2011 Census awareness campaign to advertising through community radio stations. [43100]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking if part of the budget for the 2011 Census awareness campaign will be allocated to advertising through community radio stations (43100).

As part of the overall census communication and engagement programme, nearly 200 census area managers and community advisors are contacting community and local media to raise awareness of the 2011 Census in England and Wales. Many community radio stations have responded positively, recognising the importance of encouraging their audience to participate, and covering the census in news and editorial features.

There are no plans to allocate a specific budget for community radio stations. Advertising on local and community channels may be used to further encourage response in specific areas later in the census process. These plans will not be finalised until early return rate patterns are clear.

### Departmental Expenditure

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what expenditure *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each public body sponsored by his Department incurred on engaging external audit services in each of the last three years; and to which service providers such payments were made in each year. [43746]

**Mr Maude:** The Comptroller and Auditor General, supported by the National Audit Office, carries out the external audits of the financial statements of the Cabinet Office and its sponsored bodies.

The National Audit Office does not charge a fee for auditing the statutory accounts of Government Departments. Departments do, however, recognise a notional audit fee in their accounts as the cost of the National Audit Office is borne by the Exchequer.

Details of external audit service expenditure reported in the published accounts of the Cabinet Office, and the bodies it sponsors, are as follows:

*£000*

| | *Year ended 31 March:* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Organisation* | *2010* | *2009* | *2008* |
| Cabinet Office (notional fee) | 262 | 242 | 218 |
| Buying Solutions | 76 | 75 | 51 |
| Capacity Builders (UK) Limited | 32 | 32 | 28 |
| Commission for the Compact Limited | 6 | 16 | 15 |

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Iran

15. **Mr Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the effects on the political situation in Iran of recent arrests of opposition figures; and if he will make a statement. [46107]

**Mr Hague:** I am deeply disturbed by reports of the ongoing detention of Iranian opposition leaders Mir-Hossein Mousavi and Mehdi Karoubi and their wives. I issued a statement on 1 March calling on the Government of Iran to release both opposition leaders immediately, and on 10 March, the Iranian chargé d'affaires was called into the Foreign Office. While it is not clear what effect their detention has had on the political situation, such acts by Iran are clearly not in line with its international human rights obligations.

19. **Simon Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Iranian counterpart on respect for the human rights of members of the Bahá'i faith in that country. [46111]

**Alistair Burt:** In 2010, FCO Ministers discussed the unacceptable persecution of the Bahá'is on five occasions with the Iranian embassy in London. British officials continue to raise issues relating to the Bahá'i faith regularly with Iranian officials, including most recently on 10 March.

We will continue to urge the Iranian Government to respect the rights of the Bahá'is.

24. **Jonathan Lord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the state of the Iranian nuclear programme; and if he will make a statement. [46117]

**Mr Hague:** We, and our E3+3 partners, are gravely concerned by the Iranian nuclear programme. The latest report from the International Atomic Energy Agency highlights the lack of Iranian transparency over a range of outstanding concerns, including possible military dimensions to its programme. It shows that Iran is enriching uranium in defiance of UN Security Council Resolutions, and has produced 3,606 kg of 3.5% and 43.6 kg of 20% low enriched uranium.

**David Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the state of the Iranian nuclear programme; and if he will make a statement. [46114]

**Mr Hague:** We, and our E3+3 partners, are gravely concerned by the Iranian nuclear programme. The latest report from the International Atomic Energy Agency highlights the lack of Iranian transparency over a range of outstanding concerns, including possible military dimensions to its programme. It shows that Iran is enriching uranium in defiance of UN Security Council Resolutions, and has produced 3,606 kg of 3.5% and 43.6 kg of 20% low enriched uranium.

### Overthrown Governments: Asset Freezes

16. **John Cryer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the merits of freezing assets of former officials of overthrown Governments in the Middle East and North Africa. [46108]

**Mr Lidington:** The UK worked closely with EU partners to secure an asset freeze in respect of Tunisia and Libya. We are currently discussing measures with EU colleagues in response to requests from the Egyptian authorities to freeze the assets of several members of the former regime.

### Camp Ashraf

17. **Mr Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the human rights situation in Camp Ashraf, Iraq. [46109]

**Alistair Burt:** We have received reports of residents being denied access to medical care and the intrusive use of loudspeakers at the camp entrance. The UK continues to urge the Iraqi Government's Ashraf Committee to ensure that the residents of Camp Ashraf are treated in accordance with international humanitarian standards.

### UK-Zimbabwe Relations

18. **Mr Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the state of relations between the UK and the President and Prime Minister of Zimbabwe. [46110]

**Mr Bellingham:** We share Prime Minister Tsvangirai's concerns at the recent increase in politically motivated intimidation and violence in Zimbabwe, in contravention of the spirit of the Global Political Agreement. We urge all parties in the country, including the security forces and the judiciary, to discharge their duties in an impartial manner.

### West Bank

21. **Barbara Keeley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of levels of economic development in the west bank; and if he will make a statement. [46113]

**Alistair Burt:** The most recent reports from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund show that the west bank economy is performing well, though with significant reliance on external financial assistance.

We are encouraged by the progress of the Palestinian Authority under Prime Minister Salam Fayyad's leadership in recent years. We commend it for its sound economic management, security improvements and focus on encouraging investment.

### North Africa

**Fiona O'Donnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in the countries of north Africa; and if he will make a statement. [46112]

**Mr Hague:** Current changes in the region are among the most significant events of the 21st century; the international community needs to seize this historic opportunity to work with the people and Governments of north Africa in support of change. Over the past month Ministers have had regular discussions with north African counterparts to discuss regional issues and reform.

### Arms Sales

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take together with EU partners to strengthen the *(a)* guidelines and *(b)* operation of the rules on arms sales. [45631]

**Alistair Burt:** The Government believe that the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria governing control of exports of military technology and equipment provide a robust and effective system against which to assess strategic exports. These Criteria reflect Common Position 2008/944/CFSP defining common rules on control of exports by EU member states.

The UK works actively with other member states through the EU Council Working Group on Conventional Arms Exports (COARM) to ensure best common practice on arms export controls across the EU, and to share best UK practice.

### BBC World Service

**David Miliband:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the annual cost to the public purse of retaining *(a)* short wave radio transmissions of the BBC World Service in the Great Lakes region of Africa and *(b)* BBC World Service transmissions in (i) Hindi and (ii) Swahili. [44513]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** Under the broadcasting agreement between the BBC World Service and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the World Service has managerial independence, except in the case of the opening or closure of a language service. The decision to close the short wave radio transmissions to the Great Lakes region, and in Swahili, has been made by the World Service. These savings are therefore managed within their budget.

The BBC World Service announced on 7 February 2011 that they would not be ceasing the Hindi short wave broadcasts from April 2011.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations British embassies have received on reductions in the BBC World Service. [45054]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** Our posts overseas and their staff have received a number of representations about the reductions in the BBC World Service. These have been by letter, e-mail and in person.

### BBC World Service: India

**Joseph Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the expected saving to the public purse is of ending BBC World Service transmission of Hindi-language radio broadcasts over the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [44703]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** On 7 March 2011 the BBC World Service announced that it would retain its Hindi language service on short wave radio for one hour per day for at least one year, while it explored alternative funding options. Its current FM broadcasts of non-news programming, via partners, is unaffected.

The BBC World Service, has managerial independence and allocates its funds as it considers appropriate. The cessation of the Hindi language short wave radio broadcasts would have been a platform change, rather than a service closure, so did not require consultation with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. We therefore do not hold the figures for potential savings.

**Joseph Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the likely trends in audiences for short-wave radio in India over the next four years. [44705]

**Alistair Burt:** While British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) World Service figures show that the Hindi short wave radio audience has fallen from 19.1 million people in 2007 to 10.9 million in 2010, this figure is expected to stabilise. It is also difficult to capture accurately audience figures when listening is done in groups, as is the case in rural Indian villages.

**Joseph Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the level of influence of the BBC World Service Hindi radio service in the last five years. [44706]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** Anecdotal evidence suggests the BBC Hindi service has a high reputation in India. However, BBC World Service figures show that the service's audience for the short wave broadcasts has been falling over the past few years.

### British Indian Ocean Territory: Patrol Craft

**Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who the successful bidder was for the provision of a patrol vessel for the British Indian Ocean Territory. [47000]

**Mr Bellingham:** The successful bidder for the provision of the British Indian Ocean Territory's patrol vessel was Swire Pacific Offshore.

### British Nationals Abroad: Terrorism

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what injuries have been sustained by British citizens affected by terrorist activities overseas since January 2002. [46984]

(2) how many British citizens have been injured as a result of terrorist activities overseas since January 2002. [46985]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** We collate statistics on British nationals who are reported to us as having been hospitalised, died or been killed overseas. But we do not hold information centrally on the number of those individuals whose death or injury was specifically caused by terrorism.

### Trade Unions: Overseas Visits

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on which occasions his Department has facilitated the travel of trades union officials to *(a)* Colombia, *(b)* Venezuela and *(c)* Cuba in the last 13 years. [43928]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) commissioned ACAS (Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service), working with the TUC (Trades Union Congress) and the CBI (Confederation of British Industry) to visit Colombia in September 2008. This was an exploratory visit to look into opportunities to provide advice on strengthening labour relations between central and local Government, employers and trade unions in Colombia. We are not aware that the FCO has facilitated any other dedicated visits by UK trade unions to Colombia in the last 13 years.

We are not aware that the FCO has facilitated any dedicated visits by UK trade unions to Cuba or Venezuela in the last 13 years.

Trade union officials have regularly visited these countries independently. Where they have shared their plans with the FCO we have sometimes made suggestions for their programmes and met the delegations both in London and in-country.

### Council of Europe

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* function and *(b)* remit of the Group of Eminent Persons of the Council of Europe is; when that Group is expected to complete its report on the Living together in 21st century Europe project; what discussions Ministers have had with the Group; and if he will make a statement. [46846]

**Mr Lidington:** The Group of Eminent Persons was created in order to prepare the report "Living Together in 21st Century Europe" which will be presented at the Council of Europe Ministerial Session on 11 May 2011. Ministers have had no discussions with the Group of Eminent Persons.

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr Raab:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost to the public purse was of the *(a)* procurement and *(b)* outsourcing function of (i) his Department and (ii) each (A) agency, (B) non-departmental public body and (C) non-Ministerial Department for which he is responsible in the last financial year for which figures are available. [43956]

**Alistair Burt:** The cost of the procurement function as reported in the back-office benchmarking analysis published by Cabinet Office on 15 December 2010, for the 2009-10 financial year, is £4.51 million for core Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), and £838,000 for FCO Services, and £797,000 for the British Council which are the main arm's length bodies of the FCO.

The British Council spent £547,592 on outsourcing. For the FCO, FCO Services and the other non-departmental public bodies there are no outsourcing costs of this function.

### Developing Countries: Mining

**Stephen Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the European Commission on strengthening due diligence reporting for EU-registered companies working in mineral extraction in developing countries. [45334]

**Mr Bellingham** *[holding answer 10 March 2011]:* The UK has been working with the UN Group of Experts, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to promote due diligence standards for the extractive industries in the Great Lakes region of Africa. We have not had formal discussions with the European Commission on this issue.

The UK strongly supports responsible business practices, including due diligence by companies in the extractives sector. The UK supports OECD guidelines for multinational enterprises. We commend the hard work of the OECD and the UN Group of Experts, to develop a clear set of due diligence guidelines for the minerals supply chain in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

We also strongly support the work of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on drawing up Guiding Principles for business and human rights, which include human rights due diligence.

### English Language

**Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many English language tests were delivered by the British Council in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [45816]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** Over the last five years the British Council delivered the following number of English language exams:

| | *Total number of exams (million)* |
|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 1.2 |
| 2008-09 | 1.1 |
| 2007-08 | 0.9 |
| 2006-07 | 0.8 |
| 2005-06 | 0.7 |

### International Labour Organisation: Finance

**Rushanara Ali:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding his Department provided to the International Labour Organisation in each of the last four years; and how much such funding he expects to provide in the next four years. [45685]

**Mr Bellingham:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not fund UK membership assessed contributions to the International Labour Organisation (ILO); they are paid by the Department for Work and Pensions. Nor does the FCO provide voluntary contributions to ILO headquarters. However, individual FCO Posts have collaborated with ILO field offices using bilateral programme funds to deliver projects in-country. Figures on programme spending channelled via ILO field offices are not collated centrally.

### Libya: British Nationals Abroad

**Bill Esterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) if he will assess the adequacy of the support and advice given by officials of his Department to *(a)* the family of Jennifer Currie and *(b)* the case worker of the hon. Member for Sefton Central between 4 and 6 March 2011; [46746]

(2) if he will examine the advice given by his officials to the family of Jennifer Currie regarding *(a)* the booking of and payment for tickets for and *(b)* the provision of booking references to Jennifer Currie; [46747]

(3) for what reasons *(a)* the family of Jennifer Currie and *(b)* the case worker of the hon. Member for Sefton Central was advised by his officials that Jennifer Currie should make her own arrangements for the repatriation from Libya of her and her family; [46748]

(4) pursuant to the answer of 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 659, on Libya and the Middle East, for what reasons the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, the hon. Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt) does not accept the description by the hon. Member for Sefton Central of events relating to the repatriation of Jennifer Currie and her children; [46782]

(5) if he will examine the advice given by officials of his Department to *(a)* the family of Jennifer Currie and *(b)* the office of the hon. Member for Sefton Central on responsibility for payment for a taxi to Tripoli Airport for Jennifer Currie and her family. [46789]

**Alistair Burt:** It is not our usual practice to discuss detailed cases of individuals in public, so I will write privately to the hon. Member.

### Overseas Trade

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what bilateral trade agreements the UK has entered into since May 2010. [45390]

**Mr Davey:** I have been asked to reply.

Since May 2010 the European Union (EU) has entered into a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the Republic of South Korea, which was signed by the UK in October 2010 and will come into force on 1 July 2011. Since May 2010 the EU has also launched FTA negotiations with Malaysia and with Mercosur, which comprises Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay.

### Pakistan: Deaths

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Pakistan on the death of Salman Taseer; and if he will make a statement. [46756]

**Alistair Burt:** In addition to the previous response to my hon. Friend on 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 500W, I have since raised the assassination of the Governor of Punjab with the Pakistan high commissioner.

Governor Taseer's assassination was a dreadful and cowardly act. Since my hon. Friend's last question on this subject, I and officials in Islamabad, alongside partners in the EU, have continued to emphasise the importance of freedom of speech and religious tolerance in Pakistan. To our great regret and sadness, we have also this month witnessed the shocking assassination of the Minister for Minorities, Shahbaz Bhatti, with whom I have had extensive engagement on these issues over the last nine months. Our high commissioner has raised the need for prompt and effective investigation into this tragic murder with the President, Interior Minister and senior officials of Pakistan. We will continue to work closely with the authorities in Pakistan to ensure religious tolerance and freedom of speech in Pakistan.

### Syria: Anti-Semitism

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on levels of anti-Semitism in Syria; whether he has made representations to the Government of Syria on anti-Semitism in that country; and if he will make a statement. [45642]

**Alistair Burt:** Anti-Semitic sentiment is unacceptable whether it occurs in the middle east, in the UK, or anywhere else. The same is true for all forms of racism or xenophobia.

We are not aware of any significant recent reports of anti-Semitism against the small Jewish community in Syria. We maintain an active dialogue with Syria on human rights issues, including the treatment of minority groups, and are working with our international partners to ensure proper focus on specific human rights cases.

### Tibet: Politics and Government

**Angie Bray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the Chinese Government on the arrests and imprisonment of Tibetans involved in the 2008 protests. [46702]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** Ministers and officials continue to raise human rights concerns in their discussions with Chinese counterparts.

We raised the issue of Tibet with the Chinese delegation at the UK/China Human Rights Dialogue in January 2011, expressing concern about the rights and freedoms of the Tibetan people and urging China to renew its dialogue with the Dalai Lama. During the dialogue, we raised a number of individual cases of concern with the Chinese delegation, including those of Tibetans involved in the 2008 riots.

### Uganda: Elections

**Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the recent presidential elections in Uganda; what assessment he has made of the conduct of that election; and if he will make a statement. [46969]

**Mr Bellingham:** I received regular reports on each stage of the recent presidential and parliamentary elections in Uganda, including on the conduct of the campaigns and polling day and the outcome of both elections.

As I noted in my statement of 22 February 2011, the Government fully endorse the preliminary findings of the EU and Commonwealth Observation Missions to Uganda, which noted that while there have been improvements in the overall conduct and transparency of the elections, they were marred by avoidable shortcomings in their organisation. We share the Observer Mission's concern that the power of incumbency was exercised to such an extent as to compromise severely the level playing field between the competing candidates and political parties.

The Government will encourage all those elected and all Uganda's political stakeholders, including Uganda's Government, political parties and the Electoral Commission to reflect on the assessments of the independent observers, build on positive developments, and address the shortcomings identified in order to strengthen pluralistic, multi-party democracy in Uganda.

## TRANSPORT

### A14: Road Traffic

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what traffic flow data his Department holds for each section of the A14 in the most recent period for which figures are available. [45838]

**Mike Penning:** The Department for Transport holds data for every section of the A14. The data are collected continuously from automatic traffic counters. The most recent complete month for which data are available is December 2010. Data for December are affected by the seasonal effects of holidays and adverse weather. The average flows for the whole of 2010 are shown in the following tables:

*Eastbound*

| *From* | *To* | *Average daily flow* |
|---|---|---:|
| M1 J19 | A5199 | 21,937 |
| A5199 | A508 | 22,889 |
| A508 | A6 | 22,638 |
| A6 | A43 | 31,866 |
| A43 | A6013 | 36,796 |
| A6013 | A509 | 34,016 |
| A509 | A6003 | 28,745 |
| A6003 | A510 | 20,453 |
| A510 | A6116 | 20,668 |
| A6116 | A45 | 20,977 |
| A45 | A1 | 20,005 |
| A1 | A141 | 22,514 |
| A141 | A1198 | 33,721 |
| A1198 | A1096 | 33,441 |
| A1096 | M11-J14 | 20,167 |
| M11-J14 | B1049 | 16,912 |
| B1049 | A1309 | 30,669 |
| A1309 | A1303 | 22,694 |
| A1303 | A11 (W) | 18,593 |
| A11(W) | A142 | 33,830 |
| A142 | A11(E) | 32,706 |
| A11 (E) | A1302 | 21,848 |
| A1302 | A1101 | 16,445 |
| A1101 | A143 | 18,882 |
| A143 | A134 | 22,148 |
| A134 | A1088 | 18,722 |
| A1088 | A1308 | 16,968 |
| A1308 | A1120 | 16,960 |
| A1120 | A140 | 17,309 |
| A140 | A1156 | 23,916 |
| A1156 | A12(S) | 22,112 |
| A12(S) | A137 | 25,965 |
| A137 | A1189 | 27,481 |
| A1189 | A12(N) | 22,151 |
| A12(N) | A154 | 16,365 |

*Westbound*

| *From* | *To* | *Average daily flow* |
|---|---|---:|
| A154 | A12(N) | 16,763 |
| A12(N) | A1189 | 21,439 |
| A1189 | A137 | 26,741 |

*Westbound*

| *From* | *To* | *Average daily flow* |
|---|---|---|
| A137 | A12(S) | 25,375 |
| A12(S) | A1156 | 23,207 |
| A1156 | A140 | 24,219 |
| A140 | A1120 | 18,346 |
| A1120 | A1308 | n/a |
| A1308 | A1088 | 17,476 |
| A1088 | A134 | 20,138 |
| A134 | A143 | 22,041 |
| A143 | A1101 | 14,359 |
| A1101 | A1302 | 20,026 |
| A1302 | A11 (W) | 21,764 |
| A11 (W) | A142 | 32,852 |
| A142 | A11(E) | 33,839 |
| A11 (E) | A1303 | 19,053 |
| A1303 | A1309 | 28,918 |
| A1309 | B1049 | 30,888 |
| A14-J31 | B1049 | n/a |
| M11-J14 | A1096 | 35,657 |
| A1096 | A1198 | 33,544 |
| A1198 | A141 | 34,669 |
| A141 | A1 | 23,277 |
| A1 | A45 | 19,610 |
| A45 | A6116 | 20,949 |
| A6116 | A510 | 20,927 |
| A510 | A6003 | 20,487 |
| A6003 | A509 | 29,296 |
| A509 | A6013 | 33,937 |
| A6013 | A43 | 32,814 |
| A43 | A6 | 31,691 |
| A6 | A508 | 22,289 |
| A508 | A5199 | 23,072 |
| A5199 | M1 J19 | 21,997 |

### Aviation: Pilots

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many meetings Ministers in his Department have had with representatives of *(a)* airlines and *(b)* pilots since May 2010. [43936]

**Mrs Villiers:** I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 176W, given to the hon. Member for Eastbourne (Stephen Lloyd).

### Aviation: Working Hours

**Mr Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Civil Aviation Authority will maintain separate and enhanced flight time limitations for airline pilots following the implementation of the European Aviation Safety Agency's Europe-wide regulations. [41405]

**Stephen Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will establish separate UK flight time limitations for airline pilots following the implementation of the European Aviation Safety Agency's regulations on the same subject. [41512]

**Mr Buckland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Civil Aviation Authority will maintain separate and enhanced flight time limitations for airline pilots following the implementation of Europe-wide regulations by the European Aviation Safety Agency. [41628]

**Mrs Villiers:** The European Aviation Safety Agency published draft legislation for consultation on 20 December 2010. The consultation closes on 20 March. The Civil Aviation Authority is currently reviewing the proposals. We will respond to the consultation once it has completed its review.

Once EASA's final requirements are adopted as EU law there will be no scope for member states to establish separate national requirements.

**Stephen Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess whether changes to pilots' flight time limitations proposed by the European Aviation Safety Agency provide levels of safety equivalent to existing levels. [41511]

**Mrs Villiers:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer given to the hon. Member for Coventry South (Mr Cunningham) of 7 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 51W.

**Mr Buckland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the maximum amount of time airline pilots should be expected to fly in one day. [41624]

**Mrs Villiers:** I refer my hon. Friend to my answer given to the hon. Member for Eastbourne (Stephen Lloyd) on 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 177W.

**Mr Buckland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects on safety of the European Aviation Safety Agency's notice of proposed amendment for flight time limitations; whether he has conducted a risk assessment in respect of the agency's current plans to reform flight time limitations; and what factors he will use in determining whether changes to pilots' flight time limitations proposed by the agency provide an appropriate level of safety. [41627]

**Mrs Villiers:** I refer my hon. Friend to my answers given to the hon. Member for Coventry South (Mr Cunningham) of 7 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 51W, and given to my hon. Friend the Member for North Wiltshire (Mr Gray) of 17 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 966W.

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to review the Civil Aviation Authority's separate and enhanced flight time limitations for airline pilots following the implementation of the European Aviation Safety Agency's Europe-wide regulations in 2012. [42058]

**Mrs Villiers:** Under current EU legislation on flight time limitations member states are permitted to maintain national requirements. However, once EASA's final requirements are adopted as EU law, there will be no scope for member states to establish separate national requirements.

### Renewable Energy: EU Law

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what plans he has to consult on the implementation of the transport elements of the Renewable Energy Directive; [44405]

(2) on what date the UK will transpose into UK law the sustainability criteria for biofuels as set out in the Renewable Energy Directive. [44406]

**Norman Baker:** I launched consultations on proposals to implement the transport elements of the renewable energy directive, and the greenhouse gas savings requirements of the associated related fuel quality directive, on 10 March. The consultation documents can be found on the DFT website and the consultation period will run until 2 June 2011.

We expect that, subject to parliamentary approval, legislation completing the transposition of the transport elements of the RED and FQD will come into force from 15 December 2011.

### DLR: Olympic Games 2012

**Lyn Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with Transport for London on the contingency measures should the Docklands Light Railway cease operating during the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics. [43193]

**Mrs Villiers:** None. The Olympic Delivery Authority has the statutory responsibility for transport planning for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. It is working closely with Transport for London and other delivery partners on the implementation of a comprehensive Olympic Transport Plan to ensure safe and reliable transport during the Games.

### Driving Standards Agency: Cardiff

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has had discussions with the Driving Standards Agency on the identification of alternative accommodation for its Cardiff office within the City of Cardiff; and if he will make a statement. [43123]

**Mike Penning:** Ministers in the Department have regular and productive discussions with the chief executive of the Driving Standards Agency (DSA).

DSA's Review of Area Office Functions report recommended the closure of the Cardiff office because DSA estimated that the demand for administrative support work in the agency is decreasing.

The main administrative functions of the DSA are currently undertaken across three sites—Nottingham, Newcastle and Cardiff. The need for administration support will diminish over the next two years in light of an increase in electronic transactions and other business improvements, therefore the agency can operate its administrative functions from two sites rather than three.

DSA, as a trading fund, is funded by fees paid by customers which need to be set at a level to recover its costs. The agency's duty is to spend that money responsibly, while maintaining a good level of service. That means being as efficient as possible in every area of the agency's work and considering closely any areas of spending which may not be necessary.

### Driving Standards Agency: Finance

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding he has allocated to the Driving Standards Agency in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [43121]

**Mike Penning:** The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) is a trading fund and recovers most of its costs through user charges for its services.

DSA sometimes receives loans from Department for Transport Central, to support capital investment, as well grants from DFT Central to undertake specific activities, mainly the prevention of fraud. These are shown in the following table.

| | *Loans (£)* | *Grants (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 15 million | 800,000 |
| 2007-08 | 30.8 million | 3,750,000 |
| 2008-09 | 17 million | 5 million |
| 2009-10 | 6.3 million | 5,385,000 |
| 2010-11 | 0 | [1]2,714,000 |

[1] To 31 December 2010.

### Driving Tests

**Mr Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many individuals took the practical driving test in the last 10 years for which figures are available; and how many in each such year failed the number plate test and were required to be examined by the competent medical authority. [46198]

**Mike Penning:** The number of individuals who have taken the practical driving test since April 2004 (the earliest date for which data available), and the number of those who failed to read the number plate and failed the eyesight test, are shown in the table.

| | *Total individuals* | *Individuals that failed the eyesight test* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 1,077,321 | 1,032 |
| 2005-06 | 1,140,808 | 1,101 |
| 2006-07 | 1,121,744 | 1,014 |
| 2007-08 | 1,143,858 | 917 |
| 2008-09 | 1,140,691 | 838 |
| 2009-10 | 1,021,896 | 739 |
| 2010-11 | 986,921 | 650 |

If an eyesight test is failed, the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) notifies the Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency by faxing a D255 form on the day.

DSA does not know the number of candidates who were then required to be examined by a competent medical authority after the number plate test failure.

### Great Western Railway: Electrification

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential effect on the environment of electrification of the Great Western Main Line between Cardiff and Swansea. [45243]

**Mrs Villiers:** The appraisal for electrification of the Great Western Mail Line included an estimation of the impact of changes to carbon emissions, local air quality and noise from running electric powered trains. These potential environmental impacts have been estimated in accordance with the Department for Transport's appraisal guidance, which can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/webtag/

### Large Goods Vehicles: Tolls

**John Woodcock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what work his Department has undertaken on *(a)* consultation and *(b)* communication with road users on the introduction of a road user charging scheme for heavy goods vehicles. [46009]

**Mike Penning** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* We have started to discuss our developing ideas informally with interested parties. On 1 February I hosted a 'Listening to Industry' event with representatives from the freight industry. Officials have also held exploratory discussions with the relevant trade associations. We aim to launch a formal consultation later in the year.

### Lewes-Uckfield Railway Line

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has any plans to reinstate the Lewes to Uckfield railway line; and if he will make a statement. [43089]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Government have no plans to reinstate the Lewes to Uckfield railway line at this stage. However, if the local transport authority wishes to prioritise this scheme, the Department will certainly evaluate this line reopening against other projects seeking funding.

### Parking: Pedestrian Areas

**Valerie Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether he plans to review the legal provisions in respect of pavement parking; [32418]

(2) what recent representations he has received on pavement parking. [32419]

**Norman Baker:** Local authorities have wide-ranging powers under sections 1 and 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act (RTRA) 1984 to make Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) to put in place parking controls, including a prohibition on pavement parking either on a designated length of highway or over a wider area. Authorities must indicate the restrictions with the appropriate signs and the Department has designed new signs for area-wide bans.

Last month, I wrote to every English traffic authority to remind them of the powers and tools they already have to tackle local pavement parking problems, and to issue them with the special authorisation necessary for the signs referred to above, in order to encourage them to take action where appropriate. A copy of this letter has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Representations on this matter were made recently as a result of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 by:

(a) Newcastle under Lyme borough council;

(b) Newcastle upon Tyne council; and

(c) Birmingham city council.

The Department has also received recent representations on this issue from Living Streets and receives a small but regular amount of correspondence about pavement parking from members of the public.

### Public Transport: Disability

**Chris Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department has taken to ensure consistent levels of access for disabled people to all forms of public transport. [43174]

**Norman Baker:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer of 4 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 626-27W.

### Railways: Construction

**Dan Byles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of hectares of *(a)* Grade 1, *(b)* Grade 2, *(c)* Grade 3a, *(d)* Grade 3b, *(e)* Grade 4 and *(f)* Grade 5 agricultural land expected to be subject to compulsory purchase orders to allow the construction of High Speed 2. [41964]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** The HS2 London to the west midlands 'Appraisal of Sustainability', which was published on 28 February as part of the consultation on high speed rail, estimates that no Grade 1 agricultural land would be affected in order to construct a new high speed tine between London and the west midlands, and that the proposed route would pass across Grade 2 land for some 20 km. At this stage the Government have not appraised the impact on lower grade agricultural land.

The impact on Best and Most Versatile Land (land at Grades 1, 2 and 3a) would be considered in more detail in the next stage of the project as part of an environmental impact assessment.

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the evidential basis is for his calculation that the number of homes on the route of High Speed Two that will be seriously affected by noise has fallen from 350 to 10. [44580]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** The calculation procedure is set out in the 'Appraisal of Sustainability' Technical Appendix 5, which can be found on the high speed rail consultation website at:

http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/library/documents/appraisal-sustainability

### Railways: Emissions

**Christopher Pincher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has made an estimate of *(a)* the potential carbon dioxide emissions of rail services operating on High Speed Two and *(b)* the carbon dioxide emissions of rail services operating on the West Midlands Main Line in the latest period for which figures are available. [43443]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** Both the high speed rail consultation document and the accompanying 'Appraisal of Sustainability' estimate the potential operational carbon dioxide emissions of rail services operating on High Speed Two. Copies of both have been placed in the Library of the House.

My Department has not estimated the carbon dioxide emissions of rail services operating on the West Coast Main Line.

### Railways: Finance

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration he gave to announcing his decision on funding for local rail schemes as part of the comprehensive spending review settlement for his Department. [45236]

**Mrs Villiers:** Funding for Local Transport Major Schemes, including local rail schemes, was included within the spending review announcement. Over £1.5 billion will be invested in such schemes by the end of the spending review period.

In February we announced which schemes would be included in a revised Development Pool, with final funding decisions on these 45 schemes being taken later this year. This pool includes a number of heavy and light rail schemes as well as other public transport initiatives. As part of this announcement we also agreed to fund access improvements at Leeds station.

We have recently announced support for the extension of the Midland Metro system to Birmingham New Street station.

We have also introduced the Local Sustainable Transport Fund and Regional Growth Fund, which provide opportunities for funding new local rail schemes.

### Roads: Accidents

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many road traffic *(a)* accidents and *(b)* fatalities there were in (i) Bury St Edmunds constituency and (ii) Suffolk in each year since 1997; [45837]

(2) how many road traffic *(a)* accidents and *(b)* fatalities there have been on the A14 in Suffolk involving drivers aged under 21 years in each year since 1997. [45840]

**Mike Penning:** The information requested is given in the following tables:

*Reported personal injury road accidents and fatalities in Bury St Edmunds parliamentary constituency and Suffolk: 1997 to 2009*

| | *(i) Bury St Edmunds*[1] | | *(ii) Suffolk* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *(a) Accidents* | *(b) Fatalities* | *(a) Accidents* | *(b) Fatalities* |
| 1997 | 334 | 9 | 2,224 | 43 |
| 1998 | 333 | 3 | 2,251 | 23 |
| 1999 | 296 | 8 | 2,298 | 48 |
| 2000 | 360 | 9 | 2,312 | 56 |
| 2001 | 326 | 7 | 2,356 | 53 |
| 2002 | 315 | 6 | 2,300 | 43 |
| 2003 | 343 | 7 | 2,341 | 60 |
| 2004 | 310 | 5 | 2,220 | 42 |
| 2005 | 308 | 5 | 2,237 | 36 |
| 2006 | 297 | 5 | 2,087 | 47 |
| 2007 | 293 | 7 | 2,076 | 39 |
| 2008 | 279 | 1 | 2,061 | 31 |
| 2009 | 266 | 3 | 1,947 | 42 |

[1] Based on the 2010 parliamentary constituency boundaries

*Reported personal injury road accidents and fatalities, involving at least one driver or rider aged under 21 years, on the A14 in Suffolk: 1997 to 2009*

| | *(a) Accidents involving* | | *Fatalities in accidents involving* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Drivers*[1] *aged under 21* | *Drivers/riders of other vehicles*[2] *aged under 21* | *Drivers*[1] *aged under 21* | *Drivers/riders of other vehicles*[2] *aged under 21* |
| 1997 | 13 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 1998 | 17 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| 1999 | 18 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 2000 | 15 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 2001 | 17 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 2002 | 18 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| 2003 | 18 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 2004 | 21 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 2005 | 19 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 2006 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2007 | 14 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 2008 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2009 | 17 | 1 | 1 | 0 |

[1] Cars, goods vehicles, bus and coach drivers.

[2] Includes pedal cycles, motorcycles, other and unknown vehicles.

Figures given in this answer should replace and supersede those given in answer to related parliamentary questions in earlier years. This is a result of recent changes to parliamentary constituency boundaries, and inconsistencies in previously-supplied statistics on accidents involving younger drivers.

### Roads: Publications

**John Woodcock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport by what date he expects his Department's report on potential measures to reduce the congestion caused by road incidents to be published; and what the reason is for the time taken to publish the report. [46007]

**Mike Penning** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]*: We completed a review of motorway closure incidents at the end of January 2011, in line with the Department's business plan commitment.

We will publish the report shortly and set out our plans.

We are committed and remain on track to implement the recommendations from the review by December 2012, in line with the Department's business plan.

### Roads: Snow and Ice

**Mr Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been paid to each highway authority for its emergency contribution to the costs arising from adverse weather conditions in the current financial year. [43796]

**Norman Baker** *[holding answer 3 March 2011]*: In recognition of the abnormal damage caused by the exceptional winter weather at the end of 2010, the Secretary of State for Transport announced on 23 February 2011 that the Department for Transport will be allocating at least £100 million of extra resource funding to local highway authorities in England for repairing potholes.

The Secretary of State has written to leaders of all local highway authorities setting out the conditions for this exceptional additional funding. For authorities that respond by 16 March 2011 confirming their acceptance of these conditions, we will inform them of their allocations shortly after this date. As the damage caused by severe weather was widespread across the country, and in order to minimise administrative burdens for all concerned, we intend to distribute the funds formulaically based on the Department's existing highways maintenance capital funding formula which takes into account road length and condition.

The extra funding has been made possible because the Department for Transport is expected to deliver a saving on its budget for 2010-11, following tough decisions already taken, including additional efficiencies made this financial year. It remains the responsibility of local highway authorities to prioritise their resources and build in appropriate resilience as part of their overall maintenance programmes.

### Rolling Stock

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport by what date he expects the first new trains to be built under the Intercity Express Programme to be introduced on the rail network. [45264]

**Mrs Villiers:** Subject to the Government continuing to be satisfied that the proposal offers value for money, the first units to be built under the Intercity Express Programme will be tested on the network from 2015 and introduced into revenue-earning service on the Great Western Main Line from 2016.

### Speed Limits: Schools

**Teresa Pearce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many schools in *(a)* Erith and Thamesmead constituency and *(b)* in total are situated in 20 mph zones; and what steps he is taking to encourage more 20 mph limit zones around schools. [43290]

**Mike Penning:** This information is not held by the Department for Transport as local speed limits are the responsibility of individual local authorities. The number of schools situated in 20 mph limit zones will therefore be a matter for the London borough of Bexley. The Department's guidance to local traffic authorities on setting local speed limits was published in August 2006 (DfT Circular 01/2006). A copy has been placed in the Library of the House and is also available on the Department's website. It recommends that local authorities consider introducing 20 mph zones wherever vehicle speeds of 20 mph are desired, including roads around schools.

### Unmanned Air Vehicles

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which unmanned aerial vehicles are approved to fly in all classes of UK airspace. [41895]

**Mrs Villiers:** I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave previously on 11 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 446W and 456W, regarding unmanned aircraft in UK airspace.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

**David Miliband:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much *(a)* the UK and *(b)* multilateral organisations have spent on each category of development activity in Afghanistan since 2001. [46224]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** Details of the Department for International Development's (DFID's) aid expenditure are published annually in "Statistics on International Development" (SID), which is available in the Library of the House and on the Department's website at

www.dfid.gov.uk

Details of DFID's bilateral programme in Afghanistan from 2001-02 to 2009-10 are reproduced in table . The UK's imputed share of expenditure by multilateral institutions in Afghanistan from 2001-02 until 2008-09, the last year for which figures are available, is reproduced in table 2. It is not possible to calculate the amount of UK aid spent in Afghanistan through our central funding to non-government organisations without incurring disproportionate cost.

Funding allocated to each category of development activity by the many multilateral organisations operating in Afghanistan can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Information declared by multilateral organisations on official development assistance (ODA) spending is available on the OECD DAC website at

www.oecd.org/dac

*Table 1: Bilateral programme funding spent on each category of development activity in Afghanistan since 2001-02 until 2009-10*

| *Broad sector* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Development planning including economic infrastructure, urban and rural development planning | — | 36,699 | 91,620 | 172,853 | 269,969 | 6,275,553 | 2,016,058 | 10,037,393 | 31,694,462 |
| Economic Infrastructure including transport, power generation, business support and financial institutions | — | 1,332,256 | 2,695,422 | 1,427,326 | 3,968,856 | 3,702,368 | 3,922,379 | 5,855,349 | 10,441,305 |
| Education including primary education support | — | 15,000,000 | 30,000,000 | 11,000,000 | 7,000,000 | 10,000,000 | 11,000,000 | 12,000,000 | 12,000,000 |
| Environment protection including climate change | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 106,394 | 3,327 |

*Table 1: Bilateral programme funding spent on each category of development activity in Afghanistan since 2001-02 until 2009-10*

| *Broad sector* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Government and state-building including anti-corruption, legal and judicial development, support for elections, public sector financial management, national and local government administration, human rights, landmine clearance, strengthening civil society, narcotics control and security sector management and reform | 3,129,359 | 28,681,014 | 66,374,201 | 40,342,025 | 42,461,942 | 47,411,765 | 64,300,581 | 71,728,557 | 40,171,030 |
| Health including basic health care, health education and health policy and administrative management | — | 15,071,913 | 30,160,023 | 11,063,657 | 7,543,607 | 10,000,000 | 11,008,701 | 12,020,445 | 12,068,599 |
| Humanitarian assistance including material relief, emergency food aid and relief coordination, protection and support | 46,638,573 | 40,886,230 | 3,458,142 | 2,936,107 | 1,131,769 | 90,417 | 1,960,000 | 14,750,000 | 6,619,795 |
| Non-sector allocable including support for NGOs, aid to refugees in recipient countries and promotion of development awareness | 228,050 | 3,481,154 | 5,109,878 | 4,570,732 | 490,753 | 462,524 | 1,013 | 12.126 | 235,263 |
| Production sector including agricultural development and services, small- and medium-sized enterprise development, mineral/mining policy and management, construction policy and management and trade policy and management | — | — | 1,784,797 | 8,076,414 | 35,562,964 | 19,885,144 | 11,378,063 | 16,524,838 | 19,168,081 |
| Research including economic, education, water and sanitation, governance and social development research | — | 56,471 | 247 | — | — | 3,396 | 35,874 | 517,287 | 551,172 |
| Social services and infrastructure including social protection and food security programmes | — | — | 8,403 | — | — | — | 3,015,187 | 105,553 | 29,925 |
| Water supply and sanitation including basic drinking water, waste management and disposal | — | — | — | — | — | 1,000,000 | 288,522 | 3,797,409 | 383,554 |
| Total | 49,995,982 | 104,545,737 | 139,682,733 | 79,589,114 | 98,429,860 | 98,831,166 | 108,926,377 | 147,455,351 | 133,366,512 |

*Table 2: The UK's imputed share of funding by multilateral institutions in Afghanistan from 2000-01 until 2008-09*

| | | | | | | | | *£000* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
| Funding | 8,178 | 26,968 | 36,668 | 33,071 | 31,166 | 43,897 | 34,460 | 25,181 |

## Democratic Republic of Congo: Overseas Aid

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what humanitarian assistance his Department has provided to the Democratic Republic of Congo in each of the last three years. [45777]

**Mr Duncan:** Details of the Department for International Development's (DFID's) expenditure in developing countries, including the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), are published in 'Statistics on International Development', which is available in the Library of the House and online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

DFID's bilateral humanitarian expenditure in DRC from 2007-08 to 2009-10 is as follows:

| | *Amount (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 46,156,000 |
| 2008-09 | 32,778,000 |
| 2009-10 | 40,979,000 |

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on *(a)* salaries and *(b)* pension entitlements for special advisers in the financial year 2010-11 to date. [46574]

**Mr Duncan:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has spent the following on salaries—including salaries in-lieu of notice—and pension entitlements for special advisers in financial year 2010-11 to date, in respect of the previous and current Governments.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Salary costs | 109,732.47 |
| Social security costs | 10,649.92 |
| Pension costs | 17,340,86 |

### Developing Countries: Business

**Ms Harman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what initiatives his Department is undertaking with businesses to encourage corporate social responsibility in developing countries. [46787]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** I refer the right hon. and learned Member to my answer of 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1285W, on Business: Ethics.

### Developing Countries: International Assistance

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps his Department has taken to encourage other Governments to provide emergency service personnel to developing countries following a natural disaster. [45779]

**Mr Duncan:** Following natural disasters, many Governments offer emergency service personnel as readily as the UK. We therefore do not find that we need to encourage other Governments to respond, but we do try and encourage better co-ordination of those emergency service teams that offer assistance. The UK aims to co-ordinate with other European Union member states through the European Commission's Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC), which acts as a focal point for the exchange of requests and offers of emergency service personnel. We also support the rapid deployment of humanitarian experts through providing funding and personnel to the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Co-ordination network (UNDAC). Experts from the UK Fire and Rescue Service also work with the United Nations International Search and Rescue Group (INSARAG), the UN co-ordination body on search and rescue.

### Developing Countries: Sustainable Development

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what policy outcomes to promote sustainable development overseas his Department *(a)* has developed and *(b)* plans to develop following the Green Breakfast meeting with ministerial colleagues hosted by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs on 8 March 2011; and if he will make a statement. [46056]

**Mr Duncan:** The Green Breakfast meeting is an informal working group, hosted by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, that considers issues related to the coalition Government's commitment to be the "greenest government ever" and operates as a discussion forum on sustainable growth. The Green Breakfast meetings are a forum for dialogue. Cabinet Committees remain in place for policy decisions to be made.

### Gaza: Economic Situation

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps his Department has taken to promote economic development in Gaza and the West Bank. [45778]

**Mr Duncan:** The Department for International Development (DFID) is working closely with the Palestinian Authority (PA), other donors, and businesses to promote economic growth in the West Bank and Gaza. Through our Facility for New Market Development (FNMD) project we are providing financial support and technical advice to Palestinian businesses, helping them compete in new markets, develop new products and re-launch operations. FNMD support has helped Palestinian businesses to achieve $43.9 million in incremental export and local sales, and to create 1,131 jobs.

In addition, we are also providing funding to stimulate employment in the construction sector by increasing the availability of long-term mortgages. Through investing £14 million between 2010 and 2013, we expect to attract over $500 million of private finance for mortgage lending, leading to the creation of 7,000 construction jobs over five years. We are also supporting the work of the Office of the Quartet Representative to reduce Israeli restrictions on movement and access that increase the costs and risks of doing business and, particularly in Gaza, impede flows of imports and exports.

### Iraq: Employment

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps his Department has taken to encourage the development of employment opportunities in Iraq. [45781]

**Mr Duncan:** The Department for International Development (DFID) is providing direct support for vocational training and higher education, as well as support for improvements to the business environment in order to help stimulate investment and job creation.

DFID established the Youth Employment Pilot Project (YEPP) in Basra, which provides unemployed young people with up to two months' vocational training in a local college followed by up to 10 months' employment in a local business. So far, 477 young people have completed their training and are now in work placements. DFID is also funding the British Council's Development Partnerships in Higher Education (DELPHE) Iraq programme which is helping to strengthen the capacity of higher education institutions throughout the country.

DFID is supporting the World Bank's Private Sector Development programme to identify and tackle the constraints to private investment. Through support to the International Finance Corporation (IFC) DFID is also helping to increase the competitiveness of small and medium-sized Iraqi enterprises through improved access to finance and business skills.

In Basra, a microfinance project which DFID funded from 2009-11 continues to make loans. It has so far provided loans to more than 1,000 people, which have been used to grow existing businesses and start up new ones.

### Libya: Higher Education

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has *(a)* had any discussions with and *(b)* provided any assistance to British universities in securing (i) contracts and (ii) financial support from Libya in the last 10 years. [46075]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** Since the appointment of the coalition Government, the Department for International Development (DFID) has had no discussions with, or provided any assistance to, British universities interested in trading with Libya.

### Poverty

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps his Department has taken to increase public awareness of the incidence and consequences of global poverty. [45780]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** On 1 March I announced the key outcomes of the Bilateral and Multilateral Aid Reviews and set out the results that UK aid will deliver for the world's poorest people over the next four years. The announcement has been accompanied by a comprehensive communications effort to raise public awareness of the scale of the challenge and the difference that well spent aid makes to people's lives. This achieved widespread coverage across national and regional media and online with the main aid review documents being downloaded over 24,000 times. Communicating via our social media channels, Facebook and Twitter, we reached over four million people. We also engaged with a broad range of stakeholders who have in turn undertaken supportive public engagement activity. We will continue with this communications effort.

On 19 January DFID launched a review of the use aid funds in the UK to promote awareness of global poverty. I expect the review to be completed by the end of March. Ministers will then look closely at its outcomes and assess the relevance of these activities to the UK's development objectives, in order to determine the future of DFID's development awareness work in the UK.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Carbon Emissions

**Dan Byles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the lifetime carbon dioxide emissions in respect of *(a)* construction, *(b)* transportation, *(c)* installation, *(d)* maintenance, *(e)* decommissioning of the turbine and *(f)* associated engineering work in respect of each (i) Siemens 3.6-107 wind turbine in the Greater Gabbard wind farm and (ii) each Vestas V902-3 MW wind turbine in the Thanet wind farm. [45410]

**Charles Hendry:** The Department has not made a comparison between the lifetime $CO_2$ emissions of Siemens wind turbines in the Greater Gabbard wind farm and Vestas wind turbines in the Thanet wind farm.

Life cycle analysis conducted by Vestas suggests that the turbines of the type used in the Thanet wind farm will achieve energy payback within seven months, implying that over their lifetime they will produce 35 times more energy than used in manufacture and installation. This is consistent with the range of estimates in the literature on the performance of wind turbines in general. A 2006 note from the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology estimated that offshore wind energy has one of the lowest carbon footprints of any low carbon technology at 5.25g $CO_2$ equivalent/kWh.

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the revised treatment of combined heat and power plant, what assessment he has made of the effects of the carbon price floor mechanism on the international competitiveness of the UK's chemical and petroleum industries. [46529]

**Gregory Barker:** Government are aware of industry concerns about competitiveness impacts from climate change and energy policies including the carbon price floor. This is why the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and DECC are working together on the Energy Intensive Industry Strategy which aims to maximise greenhouse gas reductions in energy intensive sectors while ensuring their future competitiveness. The strategy will include analysis of the estimated energy price and bill impacts for illustrative energy intensive users.

We are aware that the issue of the role of combined heat and power in energy intensive industries has been raised in the context of HM Treasury's consultation on carbon price support.

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect of the introduction of a new carbon price floor mechanism on reductions in carbon dioxide levels delivered from combined heat and power plants. [46530]

**Gregory Barker:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change has consulted industry representatives to understand the impacts of a carbon price floor mechanism on combined heat and power plants. DECC is going through this analysis with HM Treasury who lead on the introduction of this mechanism.

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the financial effects on combined heat and power plants of the introduction of a new carbon price floor mechanism. [46531]

**Gregory Barker:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change has consulted industry representatives to understand the impacts of a carbon price floor mechanism on combined heat and power plants. DECC is going through this analysis with HM Treasury who lead on the introduction of this mechanism.

DECC is also working with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the Energy Intensive Industry Strategy which aims to maximise greenhouse gas reductions in energy intensive sectors while ensuring their future competitiveness. The strategy will include analysis of the estimated energy price and bill impacts for illustrative energy intensive users. This strategy will be published in the spring.

### Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme

**Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will discuss with UK port companies his simplification review of the carbon reduction commitment energy efficiency scheme. [46715]

**Gregory Barker:** I wrote to the UK Major Ports Group on 20 January offering a meeting and they have recently taken up this offer. A meeting with the UK Major Ports Group will take place next month.

**Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) when he expects to conclude the simplification review of the carbon reduction commitment energy efficiency scheme; [46716]

(2) what priorities he has set for the issues to be considered in his review of the carbon reduction commitment energy efficiency scheme. [46717]

**Gregory Barker:** Feedback to date has led DECC to conclude that priority areas for simplification of the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme include:

Private (business) sector organisational rules of the scheme

Review of the CRC supply rules

Review of the CRC qualification criteria

Reducing the overlap between schemes (especially between the CRC scheme, Climate Change Agreements and the EU Emissions Trading System)

Timing and frequency of allowances sales

However, other aspects of the scheme could also be revisited and stakeholders are welcome to make suggestions for changes to the scheme. In making any such suggestions, it would be particularly helpful if the following aspects of any such suggestions were discussed in submissions to DECC:

> "How your proposals would tackle the four barriers to the uptake of energy efficiency in large organisations (namely, insufficient financial drivers, uncertain reputational benefits of demonstrating leadership, split incentives between landlords and tenants and organisational inertia).
>
> How your proposals might affect the magnitude of the energy use coverage of the scheme
>
> How the energy efficiencies/emissions savings associated with your proposals could be verified/audited in a proportionate but effective manner."

The time scale for ending the simplification review will largely depend on the nature and extent of simplifications suggested. I expect to publish simplification proposals for formal consultation later this year.

**Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much additional revenue he expects to receive as a result of the changes he has made to the carbon reduction commitment scheme. [46718]

**Gregory Barker:** The Government decided not to proceed with the recycling of CRC revenues proposed by the previous Administration in order to support the public finances and contribute to the spending plans set out in the spending review. The decision has the additional benefit of creating a clearer price signal in the scheme which participants have asked for.

The clearer and stronger price signal provided by this change should reduce uncertainty and administrative costs while maintaining energy efficiency measures amongst participants and the commensurate savings in energy bills.

The Office for Budget Responsibility forecasts for revenues from the reformed CRC are available at

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/econ-fiscal-outlook.html

| | Forecast |
|---|---|
| 2010-11 | 0 |
| 2011-12 | +715 |
| 2012-13 | +730 |
| 2013-14 | +995 |
| 2014-15 | +1,020 |
| 2015-16 | +1,040 |

A positive figure indicates a saving compared to previous plans, corresponding to the revenue expected to be generated from allowance sales each year.

HM Treasury's updated costings for spending review 2010 annually managed expenditure measures yet to take effect, based on the OBR's November "Economic and fiscal outlook" can be found at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/d/econ_fiscal_outlook_291110.pdf

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the effect on UK ports of his Department's carbon reduction commitment energy efficiency scheme; and if he will make a statement. [46737]

**Gregory Barker:** Ministers and officials from DECC and the Department for Transport meet to discuss a wide range of energy, climate and transport issues. We do not divulge the content of these internal Government discussions.

### Climate Change Conference: Global Health

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the risk of vector-borne diseases infecting the UK blood supply was discussed during his recent discussions at the UN climate change conference in Cancun; and if he will make a statement. [46923]

**Gregory Barker:** During the Cancun conference, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change did not have a discussion on vector borne diseases infecting the UK blood supply. However, there were various side events during the meeting that addressed issues of climate change impacts on global health.

### Electricity: Prices

**Tom Blenkinsop:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will set out his assessment of the effect on industrial electricity prices of his proposals on electricity market reform in advance of the publication of the White Paper on electricity market arrangements. [45484]

**Charles Hendry:** On 16 December 2010, Government launched consultations on a package of options for reforming the electricity market. An assessment of the estimated impact on industrial electricity prices and bills is set out in the Impact Assessment, which will be placed in the Library, and is based on an illustrative medium-sized non-domestic electricity user.

The Government will update this Impact Assessment alongside the forthcoming White Paper. The updated assessment will likely include additional analysis looking at the impact of electricity market reform on illustrative energy intensive electricity users.

The Government also plan to publish findings from their Energy Intensive Industry Strategy in spring. The strategy will likely include analysis on the average impact of energy and climate change policies (including electricity market reform) on the energy prices and bills faced by large energy intensive manufacturing users.

### Energy: Heating

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the merits of including hot water efficiency measures in the Green Deal. [46350]

**Gregory Barker:** Green Deal finance will support measures that can be expected to pay for themselves in energy savings over their lifetime and within the period of the finance arrangement.

Measures that deliver hot water efficiency may be eligible if they deliver sufficient energy savings to pay for themselves and meet wider criteria.

We are in the process of gathering evidence from industry and other stakeholders on the costs and benefits of a wide range of measures and on how best to formulate eligibility criteria.

### Green Climate Fund

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons the first meeting of the Transitional Committee of the Green Climate Fund was postponed; and what communications *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to resolve outstanding organisational matters in respect of the Green Climate Fund. [46345]

**Gregory Barker:** The UNFCCC Secretariat informed Parties on 3 March 2011 that the first meeting of the Transitional Committee had been postponed until the latter half of April, without citing a specific reason.

Officials are in regular contact with the UNFCCC Secretariat on the Green Climate Fund, among other climate change issues, and the UK stands ready to engage actively in the process when it gets under way.

### Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether any *(a)* Government departments and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies derive revenue from electricity feed-in tariffs. [46060]

**Gregory Barker:** The Feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme does not preclude anyone from taking part in the scheme. We are unable to report at this time the number of Government Departments and non-departmental public bodies receiving a revenue from FITs. Unaudited numbers received from Ofgem show no Government Department and 51 non-departmental public bodies receiving a revenue from FITs.

### Solar Power

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential for the usage of solar photovoltaics on brownfields to increase *(a)* economies of scale on the manufacturing and installation industries and *(b)* achievement of carbon reduction targets. [45790]

**Gregory Barker:** This was not part of the modelling exercise undertaken by the previous Administration prior to the implementation of the Feed-in Tariffs (FITs). This will considered as part of the comprehensive review of the scheme.

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he last met representatives from the UK solar photovoltaic industry; and how many meetings he has had with representatives of solar photovoltaic companies since October 2010. [46440]

**Gregory Barker:** Ministers have regular meetings with the solar PV industry where a wide range of topics are discussed.

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's estimate is of the number of jobs created in the solar photovoltaic industry since February 2010. [46441]

**Gregory Barker:** The production capacity of the UK solar photovoltaic market has expanded significantly as a result of the introduction of the Feed-in Tariff. Opportunities in the supply chain have also increased. The solar PV industry reports that jobs in the sector have increased from 3,000 in January 2010 to over 10,000 in January 2011 and are predicted to continue to rise significantly in the years ahead.

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has for the future of solar Feed-in Tariffs; and if he will make a statement. [43792]

**Gregory Barker:** The Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) scheme is subject to reviews in which all aspects of the scheme including eligibility of technologies will be considered. The first review of the scheme has now commenced following announcement by the Secretary of State on 7 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 2-3WS, and will conclude by the end of this year. As part of the review there will be fast-track consideration of solar photovoltaic (PV) projects of more than 50 kilowatts capacity and a short study on farm scale anaerobic digestion (AD).

We intend to launch the fast-track consultation soon.

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 241W, on solar power, for what reasons the five megawatt definition of small-scale renewables in the Energy Act 2008 is not being applied to solar photovoltaics for the purposes of his Department's Feed-in Tariff review. [45440]

**Gregory Barker:** The Energy Act 2008 defines the maximum capacity (5MW) for the support of small scale low carbon electricity generation under the Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) scheme. FITs are currently available for solar photovoltaics (PV) from 0-5MW. The fast-track review is however only looking at tariffs for solar PV installations in the range 50kW-5MW.

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ogmore (Huw Irranca-Davies) of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 241W, on solar power, whether his Department defines any non-solar photovoltaic renewable energy technology with capacity greater than 50 kilowatts as large-scale for the purposes of his Department's Feed-in Tariff review. [45441]

**Gregory Barker:** Under the Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) scheme, tariffs for all technologies vary by capacity. Tariff bands are defined by the total installed capacity in kilowatts or megawatts. Terms such as "large scale" are not used in the legal definitions of tariff bands.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Adult Education

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department's review of adult community learning will include *(a)* eligibility for higher-level learning and *(b)* access and progression to certificated forms of further and higher education. [45208]

**Mr Hayes** *[holding answer 9 March 2011]:* The Adult Safeguarded Learning budget of £210 million per annum for informal adult and community learning was protected in the comprehensive spending review. This learning, usually unaccredited, is undertaken for its own sake or as a step towards other learning.

We are working with stakeholders to develop policies that will deliver the vision described in "Skills for Sustainable Growth". The reforms will not review eligibility for higher-level learning. They do signal our intention that informal learning must help build the big society, by delivering learning for personal and community development and motivating disadvantaged groups to progress, including to accredited further and higher education.

### Apprentices

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of apprenticeship places in *(a)* Southend, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Hertfordshire in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010 and (iv) 2011 to date. [45576]

**Mr Hayes:** Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts in Southend on Sea, Essex and Hertfordshire local education authorities from 2007/08 to 2010/11.

*Table 1: Apprenticeship programme starts, 2007/08 to 2010/11*

| | *2007/08* | *2008/09* | *2009/10* | *Provisional 2010/11 Quarter 1 (August to October 2010)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Southend on Sea | 490 | 550 | 640 | 260 |
| Essex | 5,020 | 5,190 | 6,410 | 2,850 |
| Hertfordshire | 2,830 | 2,870 | 3,320 | 1,620 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures for local authorities are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures are based upon the home postcode of the learner.
3. Provisional estimates for 2010/11 are not directly comparable with figures for 2009/10.

*Source:*

Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 January 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeship places in Southend West constituency there were in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* 2011 to date. [45577]

**Mr Hayes:** Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts in Southend West parliamentary constituency from 2007/08 to 2010/11 August to January (provisional).

*Table 1: Apprenticeship programme starts, 2007/08 to 2010/11*

| | *2007/08* | *2008/09* | *2009/10* | *Provisional 2010/11 Quarter 1 (August to October 2010)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Southend West Constituency | 270 | 300 | 300 | 130 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures for parliamentary constituency are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures are based upon the home postcode of the learner.
3. Provisional estimates for 2010/11 are not directly comparable with figures for 2009/10.

*Source:*

Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 January 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

### Apprentices: Dartford

**Gareth Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of apprenticeships in Dartford constituency that *(a)* will be created in the next 12 months and *(b)* were created in the last 12 months. [46420]

**Mr Hayes:** There were 330 apprenticeship starts in Dartford in 2009/10. The apprenticeships programme is demand-led; the Government do not set targets for apprenticeships but provide funding and forecast the overall number of places that may be afforded. We rely on employers and providers to work together to offer sufficient opportunities to meet local demand.

This is underpinned by this Government's commitment that by 2014-15 we will have in place sufficient funding for 75,000 more adult apprenticeship places than the previous Government were providing.

### Apprentices: Females

**Alok Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of apprenticeships in *(a)* England, *(b)* Berkshire and *(c)* Reading West constituency were taken up by women in the last 12 months. [46637]

**Mr Hayes:** The following table shows the number and percentage of apprenticeship starts by gender for England and Reading West parliamentary constituency for 2009/10, the latest year for which full year data are available. We only hold information at region, local education authority and parliamentary constituency levels of geography.

| | *Female* | | *Male* | | *Total* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Count* | *Percentage* | *Count* | *Percentage* | *Count* | *Percentage* |
| England | 138,640 | 49.6 | 141,030 | 50.4 | 279,700 | 100 |
| Reading West | 330 | 56.5 | 250 | 43.5 | 580 | 100 |

*Notes*:

1. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10 apart from total England figures which are rounded to the nearest 100. Percentages are calculated based on unrounded figures.

2. Geography information is based upon the home postcode of the learner. Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 January:
http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

*Source*:
Individualised Learner Record

### Business: Loans

**Paul Uppal:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the potential role of local small business loan funds to provide working capital to small businesses. [46685]

**Mr Prisk:** Community Development Finance Institutions offer loans to small businesses and operate at a local level. In June 2010 the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills published "The National Evaluation of Community Development Finance Initiatives (CDFIs): An Action Oriented Summary for the Sector". This set out information on the rationale and effectiveness of local loan projects in supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

### Business: Reading Berkshire

**Alok Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the number of small and medium-sized businesses in Reading West constituency which employed apprentices in the latest period for which figures are available. [46633]

**Mr Hayes:** Information is not available at parliamentary constituency level on the size of the employer for apprentices.

The National Employer Skills Survey (NESS) shows a national estimate of the proportion of apprentices employed by employer size. These data are based on repeated surveys of up to 79,000 employers across all business sectors in England. The following table shows information from the published 2009 National Employer Skills survey[1] on the proportion of apprentices employed by the size of employer.

[1] http://www.ukces.org.uk/upload/pdf/NESS%20main%20report_1.pdf accessed on 11 March.

*Percentage of apprentices employed by employer size (NESS 2009)*

| | *Number of employees of employer* | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2-4* | *5-24* | *25-99* | *100-199* | *200-499* | *500+* | *Total* |
| Percentage apprentices employed | 13 | 34 | 23 | 8 | 11 | 10 | 100 |

Small businesses are the cornerstone of our economy and high quality training opportunities like apprenticeships are key to supporting their growth and success. I know that small businesses place great value on an apprenticeship and are prepared to invest in them. Indeed, the National Employer Skills Survey suggests that small and medium sized businesses employ proportionately more apprentices than larger employers.

### Citizens Advice Bureaux

**Roberta Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of citizens advice bureaux in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Northern Ireland and *(d)* Scotland which will close as a result of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review. [46550]

**Mr Davey:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has a wider interest in the network of local Citizens Advice Bureaux, but funding is a matter for local authorities, not BIS. Funding of bureaux in Northern Ireland is a devolved matter.

I am aware that local authorities are facing some tough choices and this may impact on bureaux's funding and we are working with colleagues across Government with an interest in the citizens advice service to assess the impact but funding decisions have yet to be taken by a number of authorities so the position is not yet clear. But the Government have made it very clear to local authorities that any cuts should not disproportionately impact on the voluntary sector.

**Roberta Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of people who will use citizens advice bureaux in each of the next four years. [46551]

**Mr Davey:** This Department provides core funding to the national umbrella bodies for the citizens advice service in England and Wales and in Scotland. That funding enables those bodies to provide business services to front-line bureaux through the provision of central IT, information, training and quality assurance and standards.

Local citizens advice bureaux receive funding from a variety of sources and mainly from the local authority in which they are located. They are all independent charities and the level of funding they are able to attract will determine the level of service they can provide and the number of people able to use the service. But our proposals to transfer the consumer information, advice, education and advocacy functions currently carried out by Consumer Direct, Consumer Focus and the Office of Fair Trading, to the national umbrella bodies should help take pressure off bureaux so they can concentrate on delivering face-to-face advice to those who most need it. In 2009/10, the service in England and Wales helped over two million people resolve their issues through the provision of face-to-face, telephone and online advice.

**Roberta Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of individuals *(a)* working in a volunteer capacity and *(b)* in paid employment at citizens advice bureaux in the next four years. [46552]

**Mr Davey:** This Department provides core funding to the national umbrella bodies for the citizens advice service in England and Wales and in Scotland. That funding enables those bodies to provide business services to front-line bureaux through the provision of central IT, information, training and quality assurance and standards. Funding of local bureaux, including for staff and volunteers, is a matter for local authorities.

**Roberta Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much grant-in-aid will be allocated to Citizens Advice by his Department in each of the next four years. [46553]

**Mr Davey:** Funding for local Citizens Advice Bureaux is a matter for local authorities, not central Government.

However, at the national level, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is maintaining its current core funding to the national umbrella bodies for the service in England and Wales and in Scotland (£21.8 million combined) across the spending review period, and under the consumer landscape review we are proposing transferring the consumer information (including Consumer Direct), advice, education and advocacy functions currently carried out by Consumer Focus and the Office of Fair Trading, to the national bodies. Funding will go with these functions but the details have yet to be fully worked through. BIS hope to go out to consultation on these proposals at the end of March.

### Company Finance: Bexley

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Bexley were fined for late filing of accounts with Companies House in the last five years for which figures are available; and in how many such cases the business won an appeal against the fine. [45955]

**Mr Davey:** Companies House does not hold information on companies broken down by parliamentary constituency.

### Departmental Responsibilities

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate has been made of the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* effect on the number of civil service jobs in his Department of recent changes to the machinery of Government which transferred responsibilities for competition and policy issues relating to media, broadcasting, digital and telecoms sectors to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport; and if he will make a statement. [46195]

**Mr Davey:** In a recent freedom of information request the Department for Culture, Media and Sport said that the IT changes will cost an estimated £280,000 and moving staff and materials £20,000. Whilst it is expected costs will be managed within existing funding levels, we are still in the process of moving staff and discussing budgets.

Decisions on which staff should transfer are now complete, and all staff transferred on 18 January 2011. As part of its spending review settlement, BIS needs to find financial savings which equate to up to 400 staff exits in 2011/12. The 56 staff who transferred to the DCMS will not affect this number.

### English Language: Education

**John Cryer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which further education institutions in the London Borough of Waltham Forest provide courses in English for speakers of other languages; and how many learners are registered at each institution. [45673]

**Mr Hayes** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* There are two providers in London borough of Waltham Forest who provide courses in English for speakers of other languages. Waltham Forest Further Education College is the main provider and in 2009/10 they enrolled a total of 1,292 learners in ESOL provision. In addition, the London borough of Waltham Forest itself also delivers to this client group and in the same period of 2009/10, they enrolled a total of 955 learners.

For the current year 2010/11 Waltham Forest College has enrolled 1,781 learners on ESOL and the London borough of Waltham Forest has enrolled 1,017.

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to promote the use of the English language in the UK through the funding of further education courses. [46135]

**Mr Hayes** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* Responsibility for funding further education and skills is a devolved area of legislation. Further education and training organisations in England that deliver English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) are funded by the Skills Funding Agency, which is an agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. ESOL provision for individuals resident in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is the responsibility of the Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly and Northern Ireland Assembly respectively.

From August 2011, full Government funding will be provided for ESOL to unemployed people in receipt of jobseekers allowance or in the Employment and Support Allowance (Work-Related Activity) Group, where English language skills have been identified as a barrier to entering employment We will also continue to pay 50% of ESOL course fees for people who are settled here. We will no longer fund ESOL courses delivered in the workplace as public funding should not be used to substitute employer investment in training. Increased freedoms and flexibilities for providers will allow them to respond to the needs of their communities and determine where their funding is prioritised.

## Export Credit Guarantees

**Alison McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the monetary value to the financial services Sector of credit guarantees provided to that sector by the Government in the latest period for which figures are available. [43270]

**Mr Davey** *[holding answer 2 March 2011]:* Under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG), as of 2 March 2011, 32 businesses in the financial services sector have been offered loans with a value of £3.8 million, of which, 24 loans have been drawn down totalling £3 million.

However, EFG operates under the Industrial Development Act 1982 which precludes its use to assist or acquire banks and insurance companies. In addition companies attached to insurance companies or that undertake any activity that involves a decision on and/or granting of finance/credit to clients are ineligible for EFG for national policy reasons on the basis that they perform activities of a similar type to banks and insurance companies.

Companies that are not providers of finance, credit or insurance, or are attached to such providers are eligible for EFG. Further details of the EFG sector restrictions are detailed on the BIS website:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/policies/enterprise-and-business-support/access-to-finance/enterprise-finance-guarantee/efg-business-sectors

Since April 2009, when the Working Capital Guarantee scheme was launched by the previous Government, the Department has provided guarantees of £2.2 million to Royal Bank of Scotland and Lloyds Banking Group on portfolios of commercial loans. These guarantees were priced to break even. Guarantee fees of £14.5 million have been received to date and no default payments have been made to the banks.

In respect of guarantees provided to banks via the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD), there has been no analysis of their economic value to the UK financial services sector.

**Duncan Hames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills in relation to which countries claims were made against the Export Credits Guarantee Department in respect of export transactions in the last three years; and in each case *(a)* which company was the (i) exporter and (ii) the obliger, *(b)* what the project was and *(c)* what the value of the claim was. [46182]

**Mr Davey:** Claims paid by the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) in respect of new defaults that occurred in financial years 2007-10 are listed as follows:

| | *Country* | *Exporter* | *Obligor* | *Project* | *Value (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2009-10 | Mexico | —[1] | —[1] | Copper Processing Plant | 458,000 |
| 2008-09 | Saudi Arabia | NIS Ltd | EG and G Middle East Company Ltd | Motion Handling Equipment | 4.1 million |
| 2007-08 | Kazakhstan | Balfour Beatty International Ltd | Ministry of Transport And Communications | Road Project | 252,000 |

[1] Details of the exporter and obligor have not been provided for reasons of commercial confidentiality

No claims in respect of new defaults have been paid to date in the current financial year.

Details of potential (i.e. currently under examination) claims payments in respect of new defaults have not been provided for reasons of commercial confidentiality.

ECGD also made payments in the last three years on claims in respect of defaults that occurred before 2007-08, largely relating to defaulted airline cases. These payments are made as maturities fall due under the relevant export credit loans (and remain unpaid), so can continue for many years after the year in which the claim was originally made.

## Further Education

**Damian Hinds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which further education colleges undertook capital works of a monetary value of more than £1 million in the last

10 years; and which such projects attracted a zero rate of value added tax in respect of *(a)* less than 10% *(b)* between 11% and 50% *(c)* between 51% and 90% and *(d)* 91% or above of the monetary value of the project. [45638]

**Mr Hayes:** Capital funding for further education colleges is administered by the Skills Funding Agency (SFA).

In his letter to my hon. Friend of 8 February 2011, the chief executive of the SFA stated that, of the 505 projects for which he had relevant VAT information, 35 further education colleges had undertaken works in excess of £1,000,000 and had attracted a zero rate of VAT (wholly or partially). A list of these colleges is provided as follows.

The additional detailed information that my hon. Friend requests is not held by the SFA, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The issue of whether VAT is payable on project costs, and at what rate, is a matter for the individual college concerned to establish with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

*FE Colleges:*

Boston College, Lincolnshire
Broxtowe College (now called Castle College)
Bury College
Canterbury College
City and Islington College
City College Birmingham
City of Sunderland College
City of Wolverhampton College
Derby College
Halesowen College
Henshaws Society for the Blind
Highbury College
Lambeth College
Lewisham College
Lincoln College
Matthew Boulton College (now called Birmingham Metropolitan College)
National Star College
New College Nottingham
Newcastle Under Lyme College
North Lindsey College
North Nottinghamshire College
Northampton College
Royal National College for the Blind, Hereford
Royal School for the Deaf
Salford City College
South Staffordshire College
Stoke on Trent College
Strode College
The Manchester College
Trafford College
Tresham Institute
Truro College
Walford and North Shropshire College
Warwickshire College
Wigan and Leigh College
Total: 35

### Further Education: Business

**Damian Hinds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of further education colleges that have carried out zero-rated capital works which have made use of the statutory concessions permitting up to 5% business use in the last 10 years. [46928]

**Mr Hayes:** Further education colleges are independent organisations responsible for the management of their own estates and the delivery of their own programmes and services. Neither the Department nor the Skills Funding Agency collects or holds information pertaining to the proportion of further education colleges that have made use of the statutory concessions in relation to zero-rated capital works.

### Higher Education: Admissions

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects the advocate for access to education to publish his report on access to higher education; and if he will make a statement. [44578]

**Mr Willetts:** The advocate for access to education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark (Simon Hughes), expects to publish his report at the end of June 2011.

### Higher Education: Finance

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has *(a)* had any discussions with and *(b)* provided any assistance to British universities in securing (i) contracts and (ii) financial support from Libya in the last 10 years. [46068]

**Mr Prisk:** The Department has generally promoted the capabilities of the UK academic and training sectors in its dealings with Libya. However no specific discussions have taken place on securing financial support from Libya for British educational institutions.

Exhibition support has been provided to universities at a number of trade exhibitions in Libya in the last 10 years. However we are not in a position to determine exactly what additional activity resulted from the support or confirm any contracts won.

### Higher Education: Radicalism

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the answers to the right hon. Member for Tottenham (Mr Lammy) of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 557W and 560W, on higher education: radicalism, if he will take steps to collect and hold centrally information on *(a)* (i) instances and (ii) suspected instances of extremism reported by university staff as taking place on campus and *(b)* funding received by campus research centres from non-democratic Governments. [45854]

**Mr Willetts:** Universities are not required to report information about instances and suspected instances of extremism on campus to this Department. They will, in practice, usually report these to their local police who will hold this information. We do not have any plans for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to collect and hold this information routinely.

Higher education institutions (HEIs) are autonomous and each will set its own standards for the acceptance of donations. As charities, all English HEIs should take note of general guidance, including guidance about receipt of donations, from the Charity Commission and any additional guidance from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (particularly in its role as principal regulator under the Charities Act 2006).

The allocation of public funding for teaching and research is separate from the regulation of universities as donation-accepting charities and the Department has no plans to change this.

### Institute for Learning

**Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings Ministers and officials of his Department have had with representatives of the Institute for Learning on *(a)* continuing professional development for further education lecturers, *(b)* further education policy and *(c)* the removal of funding by his Department for the Institute for Learning. [44100]

**Mr Hayes:** I met with the chief executive and chair of the Institute for Learning (IfL) on 8 September 2010 and we plan to meet again in the near future. My discussions with IfL have covered a number of areas including the take-up of continuing professional development activities by FE teachers, broader areas of interest to the profession, and IfL's plans to move to full self-funding through membership fees.

My officials meet with IfL staff on a regular basis to discuss a range of issues. The Department has an observer status seat on the IfL Non-Executive Board and attends its Advisory Board.

### Regulation

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what regulations his Department introduced between 24 November 2010 and 8 February 2011. [42088]

**Mr Prisk:** Between 24 November 2010 and 2 March 2011, BIS introduced 26 regulations through statutory instrument. Of these, only three impose a substantive cost on business.

### Vans: Manufacturing Industries

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what discussions he has had with representatives of General Motors on the manufacture of a new model of van at its Luton plant; [46894]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the competitiveness of the UK van manufacturing sector. [46895]

**Mr Prisk:** The Department keeps the competitiveness of the automotive sector (including van production) under regular review, although no specific assessment of the competitiveness of the UK van manufacturing sector has been made recently. I understand that the van manufacturing site at Luton remains one of GM's most efficient and productive plants in Europe and the Department is in close contact with GM's senior management on a range of issues; including in relation to Luton.

### Vocational Guidance

**Mr Marcus Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* further education colleges and *(b)* sixth form colleges on the development of an all-age careers service. [45391]

**Mr Hayes:** Representatives of further education colleges and sixth form colleges, including the Association of Colleges and the Sixth Form College Forum, gave evidence to the Public Bill Committee for the Education Bill recently.

Discussions about clause 27 of the Education Bill, which introduces a requirement on schools to secure access to independent careers guidance, included debate about the development of the all-age careers service. In my discussions with colleges since becoming Minister I have discussed the all-age careers service, which the Government are introducing, on numerous occasions.

### Window Blinds: Safety

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 8 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 529W, on window blinds: safety, what the outcomes were of the safety seminar convened by his Department on 27 September 2010; and if he will make a statement. [46967]

**Mr Davey:** The seminar aimed at major retailers was to raise awareness of the potential risks looped blind cords can pose in the domestic environment. It also advised them of the relevant product standard for internal blinds: European Standard BS EN 13120:2009 (Internal Blinds—Performance Requirements Including Safety) which details appropriate safety precautions regarding internal window blinds. A follow-up seminar was held at RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) in Birmingham on 29 November 2010. Both events were a success, with attendees signing up to the British Blind and Shutters Association's (BBSA) 'Make it Safe' campaign.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 8 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 529W, on window blinds: safety, what recent progress has been made on the standardisation process; and if he will make a statement. [46968]

**Mr Davey:** On 9 February the European Commission adopted a Decision on the safety requirements to be met by the revision to European standard BS EN 13120:2009 to address certain risks posed to children by internal blinds, corded window coverings and safety devices. We expect this to be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* shortly. The UK has been instrumental in the European Standards Committee in ensuring that the revised standard covers all internal blinds and is robust regarding child safety. Work on this is progressing, and we hope to see a revised standard in 2012.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to answer question 42088, on regulations, tabled on 16 February 2011 for answer on 28 February 2011. [46986]

**Mr Prisk:** I have replied to the hon. Member today.

## HEALTH

### Arthritis: Health Services

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that people diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis are referred to a specialist at an appropriate time in respect of diagnosis and follow-up appointments and during flare-ups. [46021]

**Paul Burstow:** It is for clinicians in primary and secondary care to make referrals appropriately, and for commissioners to ensure that they have commissioned sufficient clinical capacity to allow timely access to first or follow-up appointments. Primary care trusts and, in future, general practitioner (GP) consortia should be working with local service providers to ensure the correct capacity is available to provide the best evidence based care for their patients.

The Department expects local health communities to be mindful of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance when commissioning services for people with rheumatoid arthritis. A NICE commissioning guide "Services for the diagnosis and management of rheumatoid arthritis in adults" was published in December 2009 to assist commissioners in implementing "NICE Clinical Guideline 79: the management of rheumatoid arthritis in adults locally", including consideration of access to care for people with established rheumatoid arthritis.

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the need for co-ordination between local authorities, the national health service and social care services to ensure that services for people diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis are fully integrated. [46022]

**Paul Burstow:** The Department has not made any specific assessment of the need for co-ordination between local authorities, the national health service and social care services to ensure that services for people diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) are fully integrated. However it has established a dedicated national work stream on improving the care of all people with long term conditions (including RA) within the Quality, Innovation Productivity and Prevention programme.

It is currently the responsibility of primary care trusts (and general practitioner consortia in the future) as commissioners of health care services to ensure that their populations have access to the services that they require. Primary care professionals need to ensure the services that patients receive are co-ordinated, helping them to navigate the system and ensure they get the best care through shared decision making. The Health and Social Care Bill enables GP consortia to work collaboratively on commissioning. Commissioners will have greater scope to develop integrated care pathways where this makes sense, working with a range of local clinicians, and new health and well-being boards will promote integration across the NHS, social care and public health.

The Department expects local health communities to be mindful of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance when commissioning services for people with rheumatoid arthritis. A NICE commissioning guide "Services for the diagnosis and management of rheumatoid arthritis in adults" was published in December 2009 to assist commissioners in implementing "NICE Clinical Guideline 79: the management of rheumatoid arthritis in adults locally", including consideration of access to care for people with established rheumatoid arthritis.

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to encourage the sharing of good practice in rheumatoid arthritis services provided by different groups of commissioners; and if he will make a statement. [46023]

**Paul Burstow:** The Health and Social Care Bill provides for consortia to work collaboratively on commissioning. The NHS Commissioning Board will support general practitioner (GP) consortia in their commissioning decisions and provide leadership for quality improvement through commissioning. This will include setting commissioning guidelines on the basis of clinically approved quality standards developed with advice from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and in the case of rheumatoid arthritis, in a way that promotes joint working and sharing of good practice across health, public health and social care.

A NICE commissioning guide "Services for the diagnosis and management of rheumatoid arthritis in adults" was published in December 2009 to assist commissioners in implementing "NICE Clinical Guideline 79: the management of rheumatoid arthritis in adults" locally, including consideration of access to care for people with established rheumatoid arthritis.

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that GP consortia have the appropriate skills and knowledge to commission services for people diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis which develop their ability to self-care and manage their pain on a day-to-day basis. [46024]

**Paul Burstow:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published the commissioning guide "Services for the diagnosis and management of rheumatoid arthritis in adults" in December 2009. This is intended to assist commissioners in local implementation of "NICE Clinical Guideline 79: the management of rheumatoid arthritis in adults", including consideration of access to care for people with established rheumatoid arthritis.

By devolving power and responsibility for commissioning services to local consortia of general practitioner (GP) practices, we will ensure that commissioning decisions are taken at a level as close to patients as possible. The Health and Social Care Bill provides for consortia to work collaboratively on commissioning by, for example, entering into lead commissioner and pooled budgetary arrangements.

The Bill also provides for the establishment of the NHS Commissioning Board to support GP consortia in their commissioning decisions and to provide leadership for quality improvement through commissioning. Activities will include the issue of commissioning guidelines which reflect NICE quality standards developed with advice from clinicians and that promote joint working across health, public health and social care. The Board will also promote and extend public and patient involvement and choice.

### Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Health Services

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to establish specialist myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome services in parts of the country where there are none. [46759]

**Paul Burstow:** It is the responsibility of local health bodies, which have a comprehensive knowledge of their local populations, to commission services for people with chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis, taking into account the resources they have available, the needs of their wider population, and available guidance on best practice.

### Departmental Land

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to reduce the size of his Department's estate; and if he will make a statement. [46222]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department has recently agreed its estate strategy for its core headquarters estate, which will be to reduce the number of buildings in London from four to two by the end of 2012. The Department will also continue to occupy its Leeds office, Quarry house and our plans here are to maximise the space available in Quarry house for use by a number of our non-departmental public bodies.

### Departmental Public Consultation

**Alok Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many public consultations his Department has conducted in each of the last 10 years; for how long each consultation was open; how many responses were received to each consultation; and what the cost to the public purse was of conducting each consultation. [46594]

**Mr Simon Burns:** A table that details the Department's consultations launched from 2002 onwards, and their period of duration has been placed in the Library.

The Department does not hold information about the number of responses to each consultation or the costs of conducting public consultations centrally. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of written questions tabled to him for answer on a named day between 27 May 2010 and 9 March 2011 did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer. [46558]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department received 799 written questions due for answer on a named day between 27 May 2010 and 9 March 2011. Of those, eight questions or 1% were not answered substantively on the day named for answer.

### Drugs: Rehabilitation

**Andrew Griffiths:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS pharmaceuticals budget of prescribing *(a)* buprenorphine and *(b)* subutex was in the latest period for which figures are available. [46451]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Net ingredient cost (NIC) prescribing figures are provided in the following table.

*NIC of prescription items written in the United Kingdom and dispensed in the community in England—12 month period October 2009 to September 2010*

| | *£000* |
|---|---|
| Buprenorphine | 60,139.0 |
| Subutex | 6,656.3 |

*Notes:*

1. Figure for buprenorphine includes buprenorphine and naloxone combination products.
2. Subutex is a brand name for a form of the chemical buprenorphine.
3. Figure for subutex is included in the figure for buprenorphine.

*Source:*

Prescription cost analysis system.

### Eyesight: Testing

**Glyn Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of people entitled to a free annual eye test used their entitlement in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [45958]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The "General Ophthalmic Services Activity Statistics for England and Wales", published by the NHS Information Centre, showed that in England there were 11.8 million national health service funded sight tests in 2009-10. The statistics published by the NHS Information Centre provide a breakdown of these figures by eligible groups.

The statistics do not allow us to say precisely what proportion of people eligible to receive a free annual eye test used their entitlement.

### Food: Packaging

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the effects on human health of mineral oils present in food packaging. [45795]

**Anne Milton:** The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is not aware of any evidence that mineral oils in food packaging present a significant food safety concern for consumers.

This position is supported by a FSA study carried out in 2003 on the migration of mineral oils from food packaging into food.

The FSA is currently undertaking a surveillance programme to study the migration of printing inks into food and the levels of mineral oils in carton board packaging material.

The FSA continues to review evidence in this area and will act to protect consumers if the evidence shows it is necessary to do so.

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment has been made of the health effects of the use of recycled card in food packaging. [45796]

**Anne Milton:** The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is not aware of any evidence that food packaging made from recycled card presents a significant food safety concern for consumers.

This position is supported by a FSA study carried out in 2002 on the migration of inorganic contaminants in recycled paper and board in contact with dry food.

The FSA is currently undertaking research to gain knowledge of substances that should be effectively removed by recycling, to ensure that the recycling process has been properly carried-out.

The FSA continues to review evidence in this area and will act to protect consumers if the evidence shows it is necessary to do so.

### General Practitioners: Pharmacy

**Steve Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to remove the one mile residency requirement applying to pharmaceutical dispensaries operated by GP surgeries. [46524]

**Mr Simon Burns:** In the autumn of 2008, the previous Administration consulted on various proposals arising from its pharmacy White Paper "Pharmacy in England—building on strengths, delivering the future", which was published in April 2008. The consultation included proposals for revision to the current NHS (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2005, which govern whether or not doctors may provide dispensing services to their patients. As a result of that consultation, the previous Administration announced in December 2008 that there would be no change to those regulatory arrangements.

As with all matters, we keep the operation of regulations under regular review. There are no plans to bring forward any such proposals at this stage.

### Health Centres: Harrow

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of walk-in centres and polyclinics in the London borough of Harrow in meeting patient need; and if he will make a statement. [46078]

**Mr Simon Burns:** It is the responsibility of the local national health service to assess the effectiveness of the services it provides and ensure that appropriate services are accessible to its local population.

### Hospitals: Berkshire

**Alok Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health care-acquired infections there were in each NHS facility in Berkshire in each of the last 10 years. [46626]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Information on all health care associated infections is not collected centrally. The best available information is from the Department's mandatory surveillance system. This collects data on the methicillin-resistant "Staphylococcus aureus" bloodstream infections (bacteraemias); "Clostridium difficile" infections; glycopeptide-resistant enterococci bacteraemias (GREs); and selected orthopaedic surgical site infections. Data for Berkshire trusts are given in the tables that have been placed in the Library. Mandatory surveillance data for GRE bacteraemia are not included owing to inconsistent reporting of this infection.

### Meals on Wheels

**Laura Sandys:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to safeguard the meals on wheels service. [46499]

**Paul Burstow:** Local councils are responsible for assessing the need for community based services, including meals on wheels, in their areas. Councils are free to determine how best to meet the needs of their populations; they pay for services out of their general funds, which are derived from funding from central Government and local taxation. Funding from central Government, via the Formula Grant paid to local councils, is not ring-fenced for spending on specific services, such as meals on wheels.

In recognition of the pressures on the social care system in a challenging fiscal climate, the Government have allocated an additional £2 billion by 2014-15 to support the delivery of social care. With an ambitious programme of efficiency, there will be enough funding available both to protect people's access to services and deliver new approaches to improve quality and outcomes.

### Medicine: Research

**Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the merits of establishing a health research agency as recommended by the Academy of Medical Sciences review on the regulation and governance of health research. [45752]

**Mr Simon Burns:** National regulation and local governance of health research are too complex and scattered across too many different bodies.

The report of the Academy of Medical Sciences review of medical research regulation and governance makes the case for simplification under a health research agency that will streamline and co-ordinate regulatory and governance processes.

The Government welcome the report and are carefully considering how to implement its recommendations.

**Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the merits of establishing key performance indicators for research activity in the next NHS Operating Framework as recommended by the Academy of Medical Sciences review on the regulation and governance of health research. [45753]

**Mr Simon Burns:** National regulation and local governance of health research are too complex and scattered across too many different bodies.

The Government welcome the report of the Academy of Medical Sciences and are carefully considering how to implement its recommendations.

### Mental Health Services

**Dr Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what audits his Department has carried out of primary care trusts (PCTs) which received Government funding ring-fenced for the provision of improved access to psychological therapy (IAPT) services to determine whether such PCTs removed funding from non-IAPT services which were to have been replaced by IAPT; [45476]

(2) what assessment he has made of the role of improved access to psychological therapies as *(a)* an addition to and *(b)* a substitute for existing mental health services; and if he will make a statement; [45477]

(3) what guidance he issued to primary care trusts on continued commissioning of non-improved access to psychological therapy (IAPT) services when IAPT services were introduced; and if he will make a statement; [45478]

(4) what range of therapies his Department expects to be included within the designation of improved access to psychological therapy; [45479]

(5) what assessment he has made of the extent to which pre-existing mental health services have been discontinued on the grounds that improved access to psychological therapy has superseded them; and which services have been discontinued. [45480]

**Paul Burstow:** The Department, through strategic health authorities, has monitored the use and application of growth funds allocated to develop Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) services as part of comprehensive spending review 2007. This has been supported by commissioning guidance to primary care trusts (PCTs) aimed at ensuring that this investment has been used in addition to rather than substituting for related services. However, the Department does not hold this information centrally. Decisions about the range of services available to meet the needs of each area are the responsibility of local commissioners.

A total of 3,660 additional therapists and psychological well-being practitioners have started or completed IAPT-funded training since October 2008. Nearly 491,000 people have been seen by IAPT services between October 2008 and December 2010, with more than 243,000 completing treatment and a recovery rate of around 40%. More than 18,000 of the people treated have come off sick pay and benefits, who would not otherwise have been able to.

IAPT services are intended to complement and supplement a range of existing mental health services by providing primary and community based National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) approved treatment to people with depression and anxiety disorders. Historically, around 85% of adults experiencing these conditions have received no national health service support and IAPT is making good progress in addressing this problem.

At the start of the programme, it was envisaged that IAPT services would be additional to any psychological therapy services already in place, but this is a matter for the local NHS to determine in the light of its assessment of local need. Commissioning guidance to PCTs has been issued to ensure IAPT is delivered as an additional service rather than a replacement for existing services.

The IAPT programme exists to help the NHS put in place the evidence-based therapies approved by the NICE for treating depression and anxiety disorders. NICE approves cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), counselling, couple therapy, interpersonal therapy (IPT) and brief dynamic therapy for mild to moderate depression; CBT and IPT for moderate to severe depression; and CBT for all anxiety disorders.

### Mental Health Services: Ex-servicemen

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many mental health nurses mental health trusts have recruited for the purposes of treating ex-service personnel in the last six months; and if he will make a statement. [45881]

**Paul Burstow:** The Government have made additional funds available from 2011-12 to allow the recruitment of 30 whole-time equivalent additional professionals to better meet the mental health needs of veterans. There is now an armed forces network in each English region and these networks will determine in detail how these additional staff are to be deployed, to deliver better mental health care to the armed forces, their families and veterans.

### Mental Illness: Ex-servicemen

**Hazel Blears:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the *(a)* number of and *(b)* cost to the public purse of the treatment of ex-servicemen and women diagnosed with mental health issues in 2010. [46944]

**Paul Burstow:** There are estimated to be 5 million veterans in the United Kingdom. They make use of national health service care like any other member of the population and are not necessarily identified as veterans when they do so. It is therefore not possible to estimate either the number or costs involved. The Government recently announced a package of measures aimed at encouraging recent service leavers to access mental health services when they need them at a cost of £9.2 million over the next four years.

### Musculoskeletal Disorders: Health Services

**Heather Wheeler:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much his Department spent on problems of the musculoskeletal system in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and if he will make a statement; [45895]

(2) how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the NHS spent on problems of the musculoskeletal system in each cost category in 2009-10. [45896]

**Paul Burstow:** Total departmental expenditure on problems of the musculoskeletal system is available from estimated programme budgeting data for England. These data have been placed in the Library. Departmental expenditure includes expenditure incurred by primary care trusts, strategic health authorities and some special health authorities.

Further breakdown of expenditure on musculoskeletal conditions by cost category is not available from programme budgeting data.

### NHS: Finance

**Gavin Williamson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's annual spend per head of population was in *(a)* Dudley and *(b)* Wolverhampton primary care trust area in the most recent financial year for which figures are available. [46059]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The amounts spent per head of population in 2009-10 by Dudley primary care trust (PCT) and Wolverhampton PCT are shown in the following table. 2009-10 is the most recent financial year for which figures are available.

*2009-10*

| *Organisation* | *£* |
|---|---|
| Dudley PCT | 1,638 |
| Wolverhampton PCT | 1,832 |

*Notes:*

1. "How much his Department spends" has been interpreted as meaning the total revenue expenditure of the PCT (the net operating costs).

2. The net operating cost is taken from the audited summarisation schedules of South Staffordshire PCT for 2009-10. This figure is divided by the PCT's resident population to derive the spend per head figure.

### NHS: Management Consultants

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much each of the sector primary care trusts in London has spent on consultancy services since their inception; [46079]

(2) how much NHS London and its sector primary care trusts have spent on consultancy services in financial year 2010-11. [46080]

**Mr Simon Burns:** This information is not collected centrally. The hon. Member may wish to contact the organisations directly to obtain consultancy spend figures.

### Nutrition: Flour

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment his Department has made of the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition on the refortification of wheat flour; and when he plans to issue guidance on that matter; [45380]

(2) what assessment he has made of the recommendations by the Food Standards Agency that all flour be fortified with folic acid. [45400]

**Anne Milton:** The Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) and Food Standards Agency Board has recommended mandatory fortification of wheat flour with folic acid in the United Kingdom, with controls on voluntary fortification and guidance on the use of supplements, as an effective measure to prevent pregnancies affected by neural tube defects. UK chief medical officers are currently giving the report and its recommendations on mandatory folic acid fortification their full consideration before advising Health Ministers. A decision on such an important public health intervention must be based on good science, independent advice provided by SACN, and balance the benefits as well as any potential risks.

### Obesity: Children

**Simon Hart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of his Department's expenditure on tackling childhood obesity in 2010-11 to be spent on sport or physical recreation in 2010-11. [45869]

**Anne Milton:** In 2010-11, the Department transferred £10 million to the Department for Transport to support its work to promote cycling. £650,000 has been spent on initiatives to encourage walking. This is approximately 30% of the Department's total obesity budget.

In addition, there has been further expenditure within this budget on programmes such as the Healthy Towns programme and the Change4Life campaign which aim to support people to become more active as well as promoting healthy eating.

### Respite Care: Parents

**Stephen McPartland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what respite care his Department provides for parents of disabled and violent children. [46042]

**Paul Burstow:** The Government launched "Recognised, valued and supported: Next steps for the Carers Strategy" in November 2010. This sets out a framework for supporting the carers of both adults and ill and disabled children. As part of this £6 million of new funding has been made available to train general practitioners to identify and support carers and an additional £400 million has been announced to proved breaks for all carers, including carers of ill and disabled children.

The Department has worked with the Department for Education on a number of aspects of the Green Paper "Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability - A Consultation" published on 9 March. This outlines the ambition to provide ongoing respite care and short breaks for children to help families cope with their day-to-day caring responsibilities.

In December 2010, the Department for Education announced that it will provide over £800 million through the early intervention grant (EIG) to support short breaks for disabled children over the spending review period (£198 million in 2011-12; £202 million in 2012-13; £206 million in 2013-14; and £210 million in 2014-15). This figure represents a small increase in the levels of funding which were provided to local authorities for this activity in 2010-11, and includes the previously announced funding to be provided from child trust fund money.

Up to £30 million was made available in 2010-11 to the children's palliative care sector, which plays an important part in the provision of respite to families of children with disabilities. Among the successful projects funded were several relating to respite care.

More generally, the Government have committed to reducing the ring fences around central Government funding to allow local areas more autonomy and flexibility to prioritise and determine which services can be funded for families with disabled children, including parents of disabled and violent children.

## Ritalin: Misuse

**Stephen McPartland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to reduce the incidence of misuse by adults of ritalin prescribed for children with ADHD as a recreational drug. [46044]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Government recognise the dangers posed by diversion of controlled drugs such as methylphenidate (Ritalin) in the community. That is why methylphenidate is subject to strict conditions under schedule 1 of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001.

It is the responsibility of prescribers to ensure that any medication prescribed is sufficient to meet the clinical circumstances of individual patients and is being used appropriately. The situation should be kept under review to ensure that the patient is benefiting from the treatment.

## Streptococcus: Screening

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 907W, on streptococcus: screening, what steps he plans to take to reduce the incidence of group B streptococcus. [46527]

**Anne Milton:** The Department supports the 'Standards for Maternity Care' published by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) in 2008, which state that maternity services should comply with evidence-based guidelines for the provision of high-quality clinical care.

We encourage the national health service to take into account the guidance for obstetricians, midwives and neonatologists provided by the RCOG which published its Green-top guideline No.36 on the prevention of early-onset neonatal Group B Streptococcus disease in November 2003.

The Department has asked the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to produce a clinical guideline on the use of antibiotics for the prevention and treatment of early onset neonatal infection. One of the relevant infections is Group B Streptococcus. The guideline is currently under development.

## Surgery: Waiting Lists

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average waiting time is for cataract treatment *(a)* in each region and *(b)* as measured by the OECD; and if he will make a statement; [45850]

(2) what the average waiting time is for cataract surgery for a second eye; and what information his Department holds for international benchmarking purposes on the average such waiting time in other OECD countries. [45851]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The average (median) waiting time for cataract treatment in each strategic health authority (SHA) is shown in the following table.

*Median waiting time (days) for cataract surgery treatment, from decision to admit to admission, by SHA of commissioner in 2009-10*

| | Days |
|---|---|
| North East | 49 |
| North West | 59 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 58 |
| East Midlands | 49 |
| West Midlands | 63 |
| East of England | 55 |
| London | 48 |
| South East Coast | 74 |
| South Central | 73 |
| South West | 65 |
| England | 57 |

*Notes:*
1. 2009-10 is the latest period for which confirmed data are available.
2. Data include finished admission episodes with a main procedure or primary medical diagnosis of cataract surgery treatment.

*Source:*
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the Information Centre for Health and Social Care

Data on waiting times for cataract surgery for a second eye are not held centrally. There is no mechanism to extract data relating to a previous procedure from HES and therefore the time waited between the completion of cataract surgery on the first and second eye.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development health data statistics and indicators do not include current comparative information on waiting times for cataract treatment and the Department does not hold information on waiting times for cataract surgery for international benchmarking purposes.

## Urology: Nurses

**Justin Tomlinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many stoma care nurses there were in the NHS in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* the most recent year for which figures are available. [46216]

**Anne Milton:** The information requested is not collected by the Department.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Wednesday 16 March 2011*

## WALES

### Devolution of Powers: Referendum

13. **David T. C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment she has made of the outcome of the referendum on devolving primary law-making powers to the National Assembly for Wales. [45743]

**Mrs Gillan:** I refer my hon. Friend to my earlier answer to the hon. Member for Woking (Jonathan Lord) and the hon. Member for Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire (Simon Hart).

### National Laboratory Services

14. **Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the future of the Environment Agency's national laboratory services located in Wales. [45744]

**Mr David Jones:** The Secretary of State and I have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on a range of issues.

DEFRA is currently reviewing its science agencies to examine sustainable business models and the potential for more efficient operations. The review includes the Environment Agency's National Laboratory Service. I sympathise with the staff involved for whom this must be a worrying time but note that the Environment Agency is committed to the future of the Llanelli laboratory.

### Rail Electrification: West Wales

15. **Martin Caton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with Ministers in the Welsh Assembly Government on the implications for the economy of west Wales of the Government's proposed programme of rail electrification. [45745]

**Mrs Gillan:** I have had regular discussions with Ministers in the Welsh Assembly Government and with fellow Cabinet members on the benefits of rail electrification for all of south and west Wales.

We have worked hard to create a robust business case for this part of the electrification of our rail network. This is why I believe that my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport's announcement on St David's Day of the electrification of the Great Western Main Lines was excellent news for all parts of south and west Wales.

### Rail Electrification: Wales

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with the *(a)* Welsh Assembly Government and *(b)* Secretary of State for Transport on electrification of the Cheltenham to Maesteg railway line; and if she will make a statement. [45792]

**Mr David Jones:** The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), and I have had numerous discussions with both our ministerial colleagues and Assembly Government Ministers about the electrification of railway lines in Wales over recent months.

Following the announcement on St David's Day by the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), regarding the Great Western mainline, we now intend to work with the Welsh Assembly Government to develop a full business case for further electrification within South Wales.

The Government's policy is to support the progressive electrification of the railway. Both the Secretaries of State for Wales and for Transport will continue to keep the business case for further electrification of the Great Western Mainline beyond Cardiff under review.

### Departmental Public Bodies

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which public bodies sponsored by her Department *(a)* have been and *(b)* are to be closed, merged or reorganised following her appointment; and how many (i) women and (ii) men who are public appointees at each body will no longer hold such an appointment in consequence. [47096]

**Mr David Jones:** The Wales Office does not sponsor any public bodies.

The coalition Government are committed to increasing the accountability of public bodies, and this involves reducing their number and their cost to the taxpayer. The proposals for the majority of bodies across all Departments was announced and published on 14 October 2010. An updated list reflecting changes since October 2010 has been published on the Cabinet Office website this month.

Summary information on public appointments is published annually by the Cabinet Office. This includes data on gender. Copies of the most recent report can be downloaded from

www.civilservice.gov.uk/ndpb

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Animal Health: Finance

**Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the budget of the Animal Health Agency *(a)* was in each of the last five years and *(b)* will be in each of the next four years. [46797]

**Mr Paice** *[holding answer 15 March 2011]:* Animal Health's budget has been and is projected to be as follows:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 101.4 |
| 2007-08 | 116.5 |
| 2008-09 | 148.8 |
| 2009-10 | 153.7 |
| 2010-11 | 136.7 |
| 2011-12 | 121.0 |
| 2012-13 | 116.0 |
| 2013-14 | 110.9 |
| 2014-15 | 105.8 |

### Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to publish a bovine TB eradication programme for England. [45849]

**Mr Paice:** We received a large number of responses to our consultation on a badger control policy, which we are considering carefully. This is a difficult and sensitive issue and we need to get it right. We will announce our decision as part of a comprehensive and balanced TB Eradication Programme for England as soon as possible.

### Carbon Emissions: Business

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 30 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 68WS, on greenhouse gas emissions, when she expects to make an announcement on her Department's plans for the introduction of mandatory carbon reporting for businesses; [46358]

(2) what recent assessment she has made of her Department's ability to meet the deadline for the introduction of regulations on carbon reporting for businesses set out in Section 85 of the Climate Change Act; [46359]

(3) what recent assessment she has made of the potential benefits for companies and investors of comprehensive and transparent company reporting on carbon emissions. [46360]

**Mr Paice:** The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is currently considering options for a public consultation on company reporting of greenhouse gas emissions which we will aim to launch before the end of May.

The introduction of regulations by 6 April 2012 will depend on a number of factors including a decision that the introduction of regulations is the best option.

In November 2010 the Secretary of State laid a report before Parliament that considered the potential benefits of reporting for both companies and investors. The report can be accessed on the DEFRA website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/business/reporting/pdf/corporate-reporting101130.pdf

### Environment Agency

**Kwasi Kwarteng:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for the future of the Environment Agency. [45950]

**Richard Benyon:** DEFRA has reviewed all its arm's length bodies as part of Government's commitment to radically increase accountability, improve efficiency and reduce costs of public services. It has been concluded that the Environment Agency should be retained and substantially reformed.

DEFRA has been working closely with the Agency to develop a package of measures spanning structural, process and cultural change, continuing to transform them into a leaner, more efficient front-line delivery body that is focused on Government's ambitions for the environment and green economy.

### Food: Origin Marking

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the draft Regulation on food labelling adopted by the Council of Ministers on 21 February 2011; and whether it reflects the Government's policies on country of origin food labelling. [46855]

**Mr Paice:** The UK has been actively involved in EU negotiations on the new regulation for food labelling, the Food Information Regulation.

We have been pressing for improved origin labelling in negotiations and have successfully included in the current text an extension making origin labelling compulsory to all fresh meat with the possibility, subject to a review, of extending origin labelling for other foods. We have also secured a requirement for origin information to be given for main ingredients when origin claims are made on food products (eg the origin of the steak in a steak pie labelled as made in the UK).

EU member states have reached political agreement on this text and it will now be sent to the European Parliament for further consideration. We are not expecting the regulation to be adopted and published until early 2012. In the meantime, we continue to work with the food industry, retailers and others to encourage better labelling. Indeed, I am pleased that food industry launched its own voluntary principles on origin labelling on 24 November 2010. These principles have been agreed by trade associations representing manufacturers, retailers and the food service sector (British Retail Consortium, Food and Drink Federation, British Hospitality Association, Dairy UK, British Meat Processors Association). All of the major supermarkets have signed up to this approach. We will be carrying out an evaluation of the effectiveness of these voluntary principles for meat and dairy products over the next few months to provide a baseline for future assessments of the effectiveness of the voluntary approach to origin information.

### Food: Production

**Michael Fallon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many certified organic arable food producers there were in Kent in each of the last 10 years. [47159]

**Mr Paice:** DEFRA collates organics data which can only be split by crop or livestock producers. It has only been possible to provide those data at a county level since 2008 due to improvements in methodology. Table 1 following shows the number of certified organic crop producers and crop producer/processors in Kent in 2008 and 2009.

*Table 1: Number of crop producers and processors in Kent*

| | | *Numbers* |
|---|---|---|
| | *2008* | *2009* |
| Crop producers | 61 | 64 |
| Crop producer/ processors | 7 | 5 |

*Source:*
Organic Certifier Bodies collated by DEFRA Statistics

### Forestry

**Mr Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will ensure that sport and recreation organisations are represented on her proposed independent advisory panel on forestry. [47244]

**Mr Paice:** The panel's membership is still being considered. It will include representatives of key environmental and access organisations, alongside representatives of the forestry industry. It will need to draw on a broad range of expertise to inform its work.

### Forestry Commission: Public Finance

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent from the public purse on the consultation on the proposed disposal of Forestry Commission land. [43267]

**Mr Paice** *[holding answer 2 March 2011]:* DEFRA and the Forestry Commission used existing staff to prepare the consultation process and produce the consultation document. The cost to DEFRA was £2,952 for the production of the consultation. The cost to the Forestry Commission was £5,640 for planning stakeholder events and preparing accompanying material.

### National Wildlife Crime Unit: Finance

**Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 177W, on the National Wildlife Crime Unit: finance, when she plans to announce the funding to be provided to the National Wildlife Crime Unit in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [46794]

**Richard Benyon** *[holding answer 15 March 2011]:* DEFRA has confirmed funding of the National Wildlife Crime Unit for a further two years.

### Timber

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will set targets to limit the use of high grade timber for energy production; [46726]

(2) what her policy is on the use of high grade timber for energy production. [46727]

**Charles Hendry:** I have been asked to reply.

We do not support the use of core timber for energy and do not expect significant quantities of high grade timber to be used as more cost-effective types of wood are available. As announced last week, should evidence show that the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme is resulting in a diversion of high grade timber into heat generation, measures will be introduced to prevent this.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Developing Countries: Females

**Valerie Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what method his Department uses to assess the effectiveness of his Department's projects designed to assist women and girls. [47162]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The coalition Government are committed to putting girls and women at the heart of our development assistance.

On 8 March the Department for International Development (DFID) launched its new strategic vision for girls and women, which sets out four pillars for greater and more effective action to improve and transform the lives of girls and women. Country offices will report against a range of indicators in order to monitor progress towards this goal and evaluate the effectiveness of our programmes.

DFID continues to mainstream gender issues across all our programmes and indicators to measure their impact on girls and women are regularly assessed. We use sex-disaggregated and gender sensitive indicators to measure the benefits to women, girls, boys and men whenever possible, and the impact of our programmes on these groups are formally assessed in annual reviews. Innovative approaches that directly involve girls and women in designing interventions, monitoring and evaluating progress will also be encouraged by my Department.

**Valerie Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what mechanisms his Department use to *(a)* regulate and *(b)* evaluate microfinance projects supported by his Department. [47164]

**Mr Duncan:** The Department for International Development (DFID) works through specialist partners to strengthen the regulation of the microfinance sector globally, regionally and at country level. For example, DFID funds the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), which has supported the development of new guidelines by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision on the regulation of depository microfinance; partnered with the West African Central Bank to harmonise the microfinance laws of its eight member nations; and provided technical advice to the Government of Afghanistan for regulating e-money transfers.

All microfinance projects funded by DFID must demonstrate how funding will be used to reduce poverty. All programmes are reviewed annually to track performance against set indicators—including income, assets, consumption, and business growth—and on completion to evaluate development impact. External evaluations such as the Pakistan Microfinance Network's "The

Impact of Microcredit: A Summary of Evidence from Pakistan" (October 2010) also provide independent assessments of DFID-funded microfinance projects.

### Developing Countries: Microfinance

**Valerie Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2011, *Official Report,* columns 396-7W, on developing countries: microfinance, what tools will be included in the toolkit to strengthen the design, implementation and measurement of programmes to empower women through improved financial inclusion. [47161]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The toolkit, which will be published in May 2011, provides a range of technical diagrams, checklists, indicators and other information to assist practitioners develop and monitor financial services to enhance women's financial inclusion and contribute to their empowerment. These tools are designed to encourage practitioners to analyse the factors that impact on women's access to financial service; identifying target groups and actions to address gender based barriers; and develop relevant indicators to measure different dimensions of women's financial inclusion.

**Valerie Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations he has received on the effectiveness of his Department's microfinance projects. [47163]

**Mr Duncan:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has received 18 parliamentary questions on microfinance since the beginning of 2011. Ten of these questions specifically related to the effectiveness of microfinance projects funded by DFID in alleviating poverty, increasing women's empowerment and improving financial sustainability in developing countries.

The Under-Secretary of State for International Development met with representatives of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Microfinance on 2 March 2011 to discuss DFID's microfinance strategy. DFID will participate in the oral evidence session of the APPG on Microfinance's Global Inquiry on Microfinance in early April. DFID will also shortly publish the results of a public consultation on the Microfinance Capacity Building Facility for Africa, which received over 400 responses.

### Pakistan: Overseas Aid

**Valerie Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* projects and *(b)* organisations in Pakistan his Department funded in the latest period for which figures are available. [47165]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** In 2009-10 the Department for International Development (DFID) spent £140.4 million in Pakistan. 33% of this was spent on humanitarian programmes; 20% on governance; 18% on education; 15% supporting economic growth; 8% on health programmes; 5% on social services; and 1% on other programmes. The most up to date information on all of our projects in Pakistan, including implementing partners, is available on DFID's Projects Database on the Department's website:

http://projects.dfid.gov.uk

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Arts Council England: Operating Costs

**Gavin Williamson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much Arts Council England spent on administration in 2009-10. [45856]

**Mr Vaizey:** Arts Council England has supplied in the table 2009-10 spend on administration:

| *Administration* | *£000* |
|---|---|
| Operating costs | 45,577 |
| Fundamental reorganisation costs | 2,472 |
| Total | 48,049 |

### Arts Council England: Pay

**Gavin Williamson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much was paid in bonuses to staff by Arts Council England in 2009-10. [46058]

**Mr Vaizey:** Arts Council England inform us that the amount paid in bonuses to staff in 2009-10 was approximately £133,731.

### Arts: Finance

**Gavin Williamson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much Arts Council England provided in grants per head of population to projects in each parliamentary constituency in the Greater London authority area in 2009-10. [45804]

**Mr Vaizey:** Arts Council England has supplied the information in the table for their projects spend 2009-10 per head in each Greater London authority. The population figures are sourced from "2002-2008 Revised Mid-Year Population Estimates", a Greater London authority (GLA) Intelligence Update published by the Data Management and Analysis Group Demography Team, GLA, June 2010.

| *Constituency (as listed in 2008)* | *Population* | *Grants for the arts (£)* | *Regularly funded organisations (£)* | *Total (£)* | *Per head (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| City and East | 652,000 | 2,049,126 | 11,970,081 | 14,019,207 | 21.50 |
| Barnet and Camden | 564,600 | 1,421,788 | 10,457,933 | 11,879,721 | 21.04 |
| Bexley and Bromley | 533,000 | 97,667 | 0 | 97,667 | 0.18 |
| Brent and Harrow | 479,900 | 382,273 | 1,419,426 | 1,801,699 | 3.75 |

| *Constituency (as listed in 2008)* | *Population* | *Grants for the arts (£)* | *Regularly funded organisations (£)* | *Total (£)* | *Per head (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Croydon and Sutton | 530,700 | 104,998 | 199,167 | 304,165 | 0.57 |
| Ealing and Hillingdon | 570,200 | 172,417 | 584,014 | 756,431 | 1.33 |
| Enfield and Haringey | 514,300 | 519,188 | 391,817 | 911,005 | 1.77 |
| Greenwich and Lewisham | 485,700 | 590,593 | 1,973,430 | 2,564,023 | 5.28 |
| North East | 622,700 | 3,398,785 | 20,958,084 | 24,356,869 | 39.11 |
| West Central | 586,300 | 2,309,236 | 66,990,505 | 69,299,741 | 118.20 |
| Havering and Redbridge | 496,100 | 81,371 | 329,519 | 410,890 | 0.83 |
| South West | 582,000 | 153,962 | 2,798,150 | 2,952,112 | 5.07 |
| Lambeth and Southwark | 564,400 | 2,203,936 | 58,902,622 | 61,106,558 | 108.27 |
| Merton and Wandsworth | 486,500 | 891,720 | 2,498,909 | 3,390,629 | 6.97 |
| Greater London total | 7,668,400 | 14,377,060 | 179,473,657 | 193,850,717 | 25.28 |

### Sky News

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport who will be responsible for monitoring the independence of Sky News in the next decade; who will be responsible for recruiting Sky News editorial staff; whether the bundling of content from News Corporation newspapers and Sky News will be permitted; and what steps the board of Sky News would be required to take if it wished to sell Sky News or allow BSkyB to increase its shareholding. [46990]

**Mr Jeremy Hunt** *[holding answer 15 March 2011]*: The proposed undertakings in lieu would be given to me as the Secretary of State and under the relevant statutory framework I have power to enforce them. Under the undertakings, the directors of Sky News (of which a majority are independent, including the Chairman), are responsible for ensuring the independence of Sky News. The requirement is embedded in the constitution of the new company, which of course the directors must uphold in accordance with their duties under company law. Transparency of Sky News' independence is secured by the undertakings' requiring that the editorial committee report on it in the annual report.

The undertakings require that the Board, which of course has a majority of independent directors and an independent chairman, approve the appointment of the Head of Sky News. It is envisaged that he or she will recruit the other editorial staff.

Competition aspects of the proposed merger were considered and approved by the European Commission. As a result of the proposed undertakings, the possibility of bundling content from News Corporation newspapers with Sky News content would not be changed by the merger.

In the first 10 years, any increase in News Corp's shareholding in Sky News would have to be agreed by me—or my successor. I would carefully consider it taking into account all relevant considerations at the time. If Sky News were to be sold to any other media enterprise, or anyone with other interest in the media were to purchase Sky News shares, this could potentially trigger another public interest intervention.

### Tourism

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what mechanism he plans to put in place to evaluate the effectiveness of his tourism strategy. [46991]

**Mr Jeremy Hunt** *[holding answer 15 March 2011]*: Indicators to measure the performance of our tourism policies are being developed. Over the next four years, we are also aiming to attract 4 million extra visitors to Britain, £2 billion additional expenditure and create 50,000 jobs through the new £100 million overseas tourism marketing fund; increase the proportion of UK residents who holiday in the UK to match those who holiday abroad each year which, for longer stays, would mean an increase from 20% to 29%; and improve the sector's productivity to become one of the top five most efficient and competitive visitor economies in the world.

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on *(a)* salaries and *(b)* pension entitlements for special advisers in the financial year 2010-11 to date. [46571]

**David Mundell:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement on the Cabinet Office website, published on 10 March 2011, which lists special advisers' pay bands, actual salaries if £58,200 or higher, and an estimate of the total pay bill costs for 2010-11. The estimated pay bill costs include pension costs. Details of pension arrangements are set out in the 'Model Contract for Special Advisers'.

The aforementioned Cabinet Office statement can be viewed via the following link:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

### Glasgow Children's Heart Surgery Unit

**Nic Dakin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many of those who received treatment at the Glasgow Children's Heart Surgery Unit were normally resident in England in the last three years. [44864]

**David Mundell:** Health is a matter devolved to the Scottish Government and therefore this request should be directed to the NHS Information Services Division at:

Gyle Square
1 South Gyle Crescent
Edinburgh
EH12 9EB
Telephone: 0131 275 7777.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Big Society Bank

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the operation of the big society bank in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [46740]

**Mr Swire:** This matter has been discussed at the informal ministerial group on the big society and decentralisation of which I am a member. However, the operational details are still the subject of discussion.

I also refer the hon. Lady to the answer provided on 2 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 285, to the hon. Member for Foyle (Mark Durkan), by the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude).

### Departmental Land

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will take steps to reduce the size of his Department's estate; and if he will make a statement. [46743]

**Mr Swire:** My Department has already taken steps to reduce its accommodation in both London and Belfast and will continue to look for opportunities to minimise accommodation costs.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on *(a)* salaries and *(b)* pension entitlements for special advisers in the financial year 2010-11 to date. [46572]

**Mr Swire:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement on the Cabinet Office website regarding special advisers pay:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

The estimated pay bill includes pension costs. Details of pension arrangements are set out in the "Model contract for Special Advisers" which is also available on the Cabinet Office website.

### Elections

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what support his Department is providing to the Northern Ireland Executive in preparing for the *(a)* Northern Ireland Assembly and *(b)* local elections in 2011. [46711]

**Mr Swire:** Elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly and District Councils in Northern Ireland are excepted matters. The UK Government, not the Northern Ireland Executive, is therefore responsible for these elections and the chief electoral officer for Northern Ireland is appointed by the Secretary of State to administer all elections in Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland Office has worked very closely with the chief electoral officer in planning for the May 2011 elections, including ensuring that the legal framework is updated and that proper funding is made available, and will continue to do so in the coming weeks ahead.

### Irish Language

**Ms Ritchie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will hold discussions with the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland on the introduction of legislative proposals on the Irish language. [47172]

**Mr Swire:** The Government remain committed to working, as appropriate, with the Northern Ireland Executive on language issues. The Northern Ireland (St Andrews Agreement) Act 2006 made statutory provision in relation to the Northern Ireland Executive's duty to adopt a strategy setting out how it proposes to enhance and protect the development of the Irish and Ulster Scots languages.

**Ms Ritchie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress he has made on the commitment made in the St Andrews Agreement on introduction of an Irish Language Act. [47173]

**Mr Swire:** Since the restoration of devolution in May 2007, language issues are now mainly the responsibility of the devolved Administration. The Government remain committed to working, as appropriate, with the Northern Ireland Executive on language issues and have made a significant commitment to increasing the availability of the Irish language station TG4 in Northern Ireland by the end of 2012.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Bus Services: Concessions

**Julian Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received on the potential effects on shire county councils of changes to funding for concessionary fares. [44697]

**Robert Neill:** We have received a series of representations. To reflect representations we have received, the final Local Government Finance Settlement provides a further £10 million to compensate shire districts for their loss of concessionary travel funding following the transfer of responsibility to shire counties.

### Council Tax

**Andrew Griffiths:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 569W, on public expenditure, how many households not in receipt of council tax benefit paid council tax in 2009-10. [46208]

**Robert Neill:** The number of households not in receipt of council tax benefit in England, who paid council tax, was estimated from the Family Resources Survey to be 17.4 million in 2008-09.

### Regulation

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what regulations his Department introduced between 24 November 2010 and 8 February 2011; [42086]

(2) what regulations his Department removed between 24 November 2010 and 8 February 2011. [42092]

**Robert Neill:** The Department for Communities and Local Government is committed to removing bureaucracy and unnecessary burdens contained within existing secondary legislation and other forms of regulation.

In this context, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my right hon. Friend the Member for Wokingham (Mr Redwood) of 24 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 304-05W, illustrating how the core programme of the Department is deregulatory.

Subsequent to that answer:

> We have scrapped planning rules which forced up parking charges and imposed artificial caps on parking spaces in new homes.
>
> We have made changes to the regulations governing Homes in Multiple Occupation to allow areas experiencing problems with Homes in Multiple Occupation to put in place local solutions without imposing unnecessary burdens on the whole of the country.
>
> We have cut red tape to make it easier for communities to hold street parties for the Royal Wedding.
>
> The Localism Bill has been introduced to Parliament. The Bill seeks to achieve a substantial and lasting shift in power away from central Government and towards local people. Reducing bureaucracy is one of the key aims of this Bill and we have committed to a number of bold and transformative measures in order to achieve this aim.
>
> We have also carried out an extensive review to identify the changes that are needed to Building Regulations and are working up detailed proposals for consultation towards the end of this year, taking forward the spending review 2010 commitment to reduce the overall regulatory burden on house-builders.
>
> We are also working to remove bureaucratic barriers that hold back local action, and have opened up a 'Barrier Busting' website for communities to identify them.

All future regulations will be developed in full compliance with the Government's one-in, one-out rules—meaning that new regulatory burdens we impose on businesses will be given full consideration to ensure that the costs being imposed are offset by reductions in the overall cost of regulation imposed by the Department.

In the period from 24 November 2010 to 8 February 2011, we have introduced 19 new statutory instruments. Although these are 'regulations' in the technical sense of the word, many of these are deregulatory in function and intent, and others are purely technical with no adverse impact whatsoever on business or local government. A table with details of the statutory instruments that have been introduced has been placed in the Library of the House.

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions his Department has consulted representatives of small businesses on the effects of proposed new regulations since 6 May 2010. [46150]

**Andrew Stunell:** My Department places great importance on consulting businesses when developing new regulatory and deregulatory proposals. That is why DCLG's consultations go further than just publishing a formal consultation on our website.

DCLG adopts an approach of regular, and early, engagement with our external partners, including small business and their representative bodies. This helps us gather industry views on our proposals, including the introduction of new regulations, before they are taken forward.

For example, in 2010 we invited the public and industry to submit their ideas and evidence on ways to improve the Building Regulations, on ways of reducing the associated regulatory burdens, and on ways to deliver even better levels of compliance. We received over 200 emails, in addition to the contributions we received on the Cabinet Office's 'Your Freedom' website and the Department's own 'Cut Red Tape' website. These contributions, together with those gained from a variety of events we hosted and attended with organisations and representative bodies, informed the ongoing programme of work to review the Building Regulations that was announced on 16 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 114-15WS. Officials continue to engage with external partners as they develop further the options that will be considered for consultation later this year.

My officials also keep an open dialogue with external partners affected by our regulations. Unfortunately, this informal approach, because of its very nature, does however mean that records of engagement are not held.

### Domestic Waste: Complaints

**Andrew Griffiths:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what complaints on the frequency of household waste collections the Local Government Ombudsman has considered in the last three years; and what the Ombudsman's finding was in each case. [46209]

**Robert Neill:** In 2010, the Ombudsman considered 42 complaints relating to household waste collections, of which 31 were not proceeded with, for example because of insufficient evidence. In the remaining 11 cases the council addressed the problem to the satisfaction of the Ombudsman before he issued a formal report.

In 2009, the Ombudsman considered 26 such complaints of which 17 were not proceeded with and in nine cases the problem was addressed. Corresponding figures for 2008 are 54 complaints—42 not proceeded with and 12 cases where the problem was addressed.

### Government Offices for the Regions: Redundancy

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his Department's policy is on measures to avoid compulsory redundancies arising from closure of the Government Office Network; and if he will make a statement. [45882]

**Robert Neill:** DCLG, working with all Government office sponsor Departments, and following the in principle decision to close the Government offices for the regions in July 2010, has put in place the following measures to avoid or minimise any compulsory redundancies which may arise from the closure of the Government offices for the regions:

(i) Access to job search facilities and support and career counselling in each Government office;

(ii) Priority status to apply for vacancies across the civil service in advance of the formal decision to close the government offices for the regions in October 2010;

(iii) The opportunity to apply for a voluntary release and a separate voluntary redundancy scheme;

(iv) Exclusive access, in the first instance, to apply for those posts which were or are currently carried out in Government offices and which will continue in other Government Departments after the closure of the Government offices for the regions;

(v) The opportunity for one to one meetings for staff to set out their views and preferences.

In addition DCLG has developed an innovative and new 'redundancy swaps' scheme which it is actively promoting across the civil service which will fund the voluntary release of staff in other Departments in exchange for that Department offering a post to a Government office member of staff. In the event that it proves necessary to issue formal notices of redundancy, every effort will continue to be made, throughout any notice period, to redeploy those staff who wish to remain in civil service employment.

### Local Government Finance

**Mr Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been paid to each local authority in planning grant in financial year 2010-11. [44539]

**Robert Neill:** Planning Delivery Grant was paid over the period 2003-04 to 2007-08 which was superseded by Housing and Planning Delivery Grant; this was last paid in financial year 2009-10.

In 2010-11, four local authorities received £25,000 per authority under the Sector Led Support Programme to support the delivery of local plans:

Newark and Sherwood district council
Stockport metropolitan borough council
Braintree district council
South Gloucestershire council.

This programme has now ended.

The spending review has allocated almost £1 billion of central funding to support the New Homes Bonus.

### Planning

**Kwasi Kwarteng:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to increase the efficiency of the planning process for large infrastructure projects. [45782]

**Greg Clark:** I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement on 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 72-73WS, which is available in the Library of the House.

### Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

**Hilary Benn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department issues on *(a)* the responsibilities for maintenance of roads, drains and associated services on new housing developments, *(b)* the circumstances in which services should be adapted by local authorities and *(c)* responsibility for such services when firms which operate them enter receivership. [43396]

**Norman Baker:** I have been asked to reply.

The Government do not issue guidance on these issues. A wide range of approaches may be appropriate for different developments, and these are primarily matters for housing developers and their customers. We would advise potential buyers to investigate these issues carefully before buying a home on a new development.

The Highways Act 1980 contains provisions detailing responsibilities for maintenance of roads by highway authorities, and powers for them to adopt new streets. Which streets are adopted by highway authorities is a matter for them to decide.

Responsibility for individual house drains on new housing developments remains with the home owner. Currently developers of new housing developments may enter into voluntary agreements with the appropriate water company to have certain defined sewers adopted. In such cases each water company defines its own requirements.

### Sports: Finance

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if he will put in place measures to ensure that the reduction in funding for local authorities will not result in the closure of local sports and leisure facilities; [46270]

(2) if he will put in place measures to ensure that the reduction in funding for local authorities will not result in a rise in *(a)* discretionary rates paid by sports and leisure clubs *(b)* charges for entry and *(c)* fees for hiring facilities. [46271]

**Robert Neill:** Local authorities are democratically elected and, as such, they are independent from central Government and are responsible for their own finances. It is for individual councils, in consultation with their communities, to decide on what local sports and leisure facilities to provide according to local circumstances.

The Government have urged councils not to increase charges as "an easy" alternative to cutting back on waste and making back office savings. A sensible approach would ensure that local people support creative trading, particularly when it helps to protect other services, or keep council tax bills down.

The Government recognise the benefits of local sport facilities. The Inspired Facilities strand of the mass participation Olympic Legacy programme will see the investment of £50 million lottery funding to help upgrade local sports facilities. The first of five £10 million funding rounds will be launched in the summer.

We would also encourage every club to consider registering as a Community Amateur Sports Club. The scheme has provided valuable funding to sports clubs which allows them to benefit from certain tax reliefs, similar to those normally given to charities.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Burglary

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to help reduce the incidence of burglary. [46764]

**James Brokenshire:** Cutting crime, including burglary, is the core responsibility of the police. By cutting bureaucracy and red tape we are reducing the burden on the police to focus on tackling those crimes, such as burglary, which matter most to their communities.

We know that some opportunistic burglaries may be preventable, so we have made advice on burglary prevention available directly to members of the public via online crime maps and the directgov website and through partners in the voluntary sector. We are also updating the good practice available for frontline staff.

## Driving Offences: Speed Limits

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* convictions, *(b)* cautions and *(c)* fixed penalty notices were issued to people arrested for speeding offences in each police force area in each year since 1997. [46940]

**James Brokenshire:** Data from 1997 to 2008 (latest available) on fixed penalty notices issued for speeding offences in each police force area are provided in table A.

Data for fixed penalty notices issued in 2009 are due to be published in April 2011.

Data provided by the Ministry of Justice, showing the number of convictions for speeding offences can be viewed in table B.

Cautions are not issued by the police for speeding offences.

*Table A: Number of fixed penalty notices issued for speed limit offences by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2008*

| | | | | | *Total FPNS for speed limit offences* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* |
| Avon and Somerset | 7,294 | 18,327 | 25,897 | 36,122 | 30,339 | 53,846 |
| Bedfordshire | 8,700 | 10,255 | 18,008 | 16,707 | 13,415 | 40,338 |
| Cambridgeshire | 14,837 | 13,818 | 14,562 | 8,708 | 6,777 | 15,435 |
| Cheshire | 10,765 | 23,196 | 16,393 | 15,356 | 16,694 | 13,578 |
| Cleveland | 3,239 | 10,734 | 7,717 | 23,228 | 24,160 | 25,264 |
| Cumbria | 4,882 | 4,919 | 5,058 | 4,103 | 3,649 | 5,797 |
| Derbyshire | 17,438 | 22,785 | 21,771 | 18,291 | 24,949 | 71,965 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 36,150 | 32,757 | 33,682 | 28,091 | 33,389 | 31,144 |
| Dorset | 11,172 | 14,738 | 14,815 | 18,305 | 19,605 | 18,686 |
| Durham | 3,213 | 3,930 | 4,586 | 9,180 | 14,156 | 7,697 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 6,708 | 9,272 | 8,222 | 8,840 | 6,868 | 12,343 |
| Essex | 48,123 | 19,282 | 38,097 | 56,010 | 87,038 | 101,063 |
| Gloucestershire | 6,260 | 8,714 | 6,268 | 5,781 | 4,097 | 3,898 |
| Greater Manchester | 54,694 | 51,145 | 64,318 | 59,765 | 50,448 | 35,861 |
| Gwent | 5,263 | 4,214 | 2,050 | 16,518 | 13,209 | 2,960 |
| Hampshire | 27,460 | 34,555 | 46,709 | 27,566 | 28,995 | 31,867 |
| Hertfordshire | 17,604 | 14,063 | 25,687 | 23,956 | 23,474 | 23,203 |
| Humberside | 9,735 | 13,759 | 12,671 | 22,209 | 17,228 | 13,399 |
| Kent | 28,706 | 28,009 | 18,954 | 24,617 | 23,044 | 36,645 |
| Lancashire | 23,813 | 32,810 | 35,335 | 29,683 | 27,993 | 158,163 |
| Leicestershire | 5,612 | 9,729 | 8,791 | 8,094 | 7,750 | 17,903 |
| Lincolnshire | 6,588 | 12,368 | 17,913 | 26,319 | 31,487 | 27,490 |
| London, City of | 520 | 907 | 2,423 | 353 | 713 | 4,782 |
| Merseyside | 11,808 | 15,373 | 15,968 | 7,385 | 4,100 | 6,484 |
| Metropolitan Police | 45,488 | 36,690 | 32,061 | 54,843 | 58,412 | 53,334 |
| Norfolk | 4,895 | 5,379 | 9,267 | 4,783 | 5,166 | 17,116 |
| North Wales | 9,146 | 9,920 | 11,141 | 16,980 | 20,245 | 44,459 |
| North Yorkshire | 11,679 | 9,924 | 6,908 | 5,295 | 7,436 | 5,412 |
| Northamptonshire | 3,722 | 8,836 | 7,772 | 34,809 | 79,627 | 60,459 |
| Northumbria | 25,693 | 34,918 | 37,472 | 24,265 | 40,726 | 41,050 |
| Nottinghamshire | 4,625 | 6,289 | 5,512 | 23,766 | 24,556 | 35,771 |
| South Wales | 22,227 | 27,464 | 28,850 | 54,383 | 75,224 | 61,948 |
| South Yorkshire | 39,062 | 31,585 | 23,544 | 20,987 | 21,566 | 16,096 |
| Staffordshire | 22,552 | 22,044 | 14,656 | 13,969 | 20,372 | 29,094 |
| Suffolk | 7,271 | 12,640 | 18,088 | 12,596 | 12,416 | 9,477 |
| Surrey | 5,340 | 10,252 | 11,035 | 12,072 | 10,424 | 6,052 |
| Sussex | 25,124 | 24,862 | 22,370 | 24,990 | 18,513 | 23,550 |
| Thames Valley | 53,285 | 62,827 | 46,034 | 71,888 | 154,524 | 121,677 |
| Warwickshire | 1,857 | 2,510 | 2,745 | 2,099 | 3,136 | 14,999 |
| West Mercia | 15,392 | 15,502 | 18,478 | 22,150 | 30,504 | 29,098 |
| West Midlands | 9,378 | 11,586 | 9,546 | 5,668 | 15,806 | 17,762 |
| West Yorkshire | 24,103 | 29,635 | 24,791 | 24,595 | 20,937 | 32,126 |
| Wiltshire | 11,330 | 8,494 | 9,319 | 16,351 | 17,941 | 27,975 |
| England and Wales | 712,753 | 781,016 | 805,484 | 941,676 | 1,151,108 | 1,407,266 |

| | | | | | *Total FPNS for speed limit offences* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
| Avon and Somerset | 99,405 | 85,331 | 67,933 | 52,606 | 57,746 | 53,069 |
| Bedfordshire | 66,709 | 56,762 | 44,736 | 48,407 | 30,029 | 19,884 |
| Cambridgeshire | 28,510 | 19,802 | 44,997 | 20,502 | 25,371 | 22,548 |
| Cheshire | 29,564 | 40,306 | 25,056 | 28,570 | 26,992 | 23,032 |
| Cleveland | 24,729 | 19,939 | 24,912 | 19,044 | 13,951 | 11,017 |
| Cumbria | 24,692 | 31,531 | 27,441 | 32,023 | 29,096 | 30,774 |
| Derbyshire | 44,517 | 44,412 | 30,905 | 31,484 | 22,389 | 16,652 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 63,916 | 91,662 | 53,474 | 42,467 | 62,549 | 49,234 |
| Dorset | 63,185 | 71,832 | 79,522 | 51,599 | 36,900 | 26,086 |
| Durham | 6,538 | 4,184 | 2,816 | 2,817 | 3,138 | 3,531 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 3,072 | 2,221 | 1,435 | 1,054 | 1,654 | 1,713 |
| Essex | 66,281 | 68,852 | 85,745 | 60,705 | 44,796 | 25,956 |
| Gloucestershire | 3,139 | 4,913 | 10,849 | 13,406 | 9,380 | 7,547 |
| Greater Manchester | 44,903 | 43,531 | 59,478 | 60,283 | 42,609 | 37,330 |
| Gwent | 1,013 | 859 | 506 | 531 | 507 | 384 |
| Hampshire | 45,324 | 52,587 | 58,750 | 49,404 | 49,324 | 36,719 |
| Hertfordshire | 28,696 | 61,637 | 49,738 | 81,805 | 41,593 | 34,945 |
| Humberside | 25,755 | 52,288 | 48,494 | 36,718 | 34,184 | 21,993 |
| Kent | 54,594 | 66,661 | 53,289 | 47,179 | 51,438 | 25,208 |
| Lancashire | 96,660 | 63,233 | 63,568 | 57,658 | 55,167 | 41,678 |
| Leicestershire | 45,417 | 26,357 | 7,281 | 24,605 | 20,634 | 15,506 |
| Lincolnshire | 27,970 | 29,258 | 32,613 | 25,750 | 24,849 | 26,834 |
| London, City of | 4,864 | 6,358 | 10,275 | 5,089 | 2,785 | 3,082 |
| Merseyside | 8,883 | 8,058 | 18,411 | 33,049 | 26,601 | 34,894 |
| Metropolitan Police | 80,213 | 104,920 | 126,426 | 102,482 | 73,738 | 94,955 |
| Norfolk | 31,640 | 26,938 | 25,117 | 25,346 | 24,878 | 20,359 |
| North Wales | 61,645 | 51,069 | 74,485 | 59,491 | 42,537 | 29,327 |
| North Yorkshire | 5,836 | 5,971 | 4,923 | 51,880 | 38,504 | 39,410 |
| Northamptonshire | 49,902 | 49,108 | 47,866 | 5,256 | 7,748 | 7,779 |
| Northumbria | 69,018 | 94,319 | 55,708 | 42,242 | 25,283 | 14,716 |
| Nottinghamshire | 53,276 | 53,188 | 53,696 | 42,917 | 34,750 | 32,975 |
| South Wales | 65,852 | 45,343 | 45,189 | 33,208 | 40,426 | 48,453 |
| South Yorkshire | 51,418 | 42,635 | 65,352 | 51,462 | 37,911 | 8,014 |
| Staffordshire | 47,565 | 41,249 | 46,219 | 50,823 | 31,547 | 35,269 |
| Suffolk | 16,606 | 40,847 | 40,029 | 34,442 | 30,378 | 34,678 |
| Surrey | 7,057 | 8,200 | 17,509 | 39,520 | 28,941 | 27,366 |
| Sussex | 60,364 | 45,619 | 58,606 | 48,627 | 46,832 | 37,632 |
| Thames Valley | 123,586 | 92,834 | 97,049 | 137,312 | 54,385 | 53,909 |
| Warwickshire | 27,737 | 34,206 | 40,401 | 30,316 | 27,468 | 18,794 |
| West Mercia | 78,408 | 57,844 | 53,711 | 46,213 | 54,975 | 52,109 |
| West Midlands | 43,542 | 58,052 | 46,612 | 44,497 | 45,357 | 34,620 |
| West Yorkshire | 70,011 | 68,827 | 66,031 | 49,528 | 41,386 | 37,177 |
| Wiltshire | 42,738 | 50,641 | 52,412 | 51,458 | 36,959 | 30.338 |
| England and Wales | 1,894,750 | 1,924,384 | 1,919,565 | 1,773,775 | 1,437,685 | 1,227,496 |

*Table B: Findings of guilt at all courts for speed limit offences by force 1997 to 2009*

| *Off 816 (speed limit offs )* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 7,795 | 5,681 | 3,594 | 4,401 | 5,769 | 5,060 | 6,914 |
| Bedfordshire | 1,770 | 3,457 | 1,941 | 2,041 | 2,369 | 1,590 | 3,589 |
| Cambridgeshire | 4,971 | 3,170 | 2,687 | 1,641 | 768 | 533 | 1,190 |
| Cheshire | 2,734 | 3,870 | 3,662 | 4,625 | 3,930 | 4,016 | 3,110 |
| Cleveland | 532 | 997 | 1,022 | 1,021 | 1,357 | 1,164 | 1,339 |
| Cumbria | 2,104 | 2,202 | 2,089 | 1,548 | 1,571 | 1,622 | 2,027 |
| Derbyshire | 3,426 | 3,938 | 4,304 | 5,001 | 6,081 | 3,754 | 3,590 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 4,021 | 3,271 | 3,529 | 4,290 | 3,857 | 3,493 | 4,954 |
| Dorset | 778 | 728 | 829 | 1,274 | 958 | 1,043 | 1,546 |
| Durham | 369 | 423 | 936 | 1,396 | 1,794 | 1,641 | 1,064 |
| Essex | 5,127 | 4,814 | 6,696 | 6,349 | 9,208 | 14,660 | 9,357 |
| Gloucestershire | 2,369 | 1,833 | 1,535 | 2,164 | 1,871 | 901 | 820 |

*Table B: Findings of guilt at all courts for speed limit offences by force 1997 to 2009*

| *Off 816 (speed limit offs )* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Greater Manchester | 11,072 | 14,686 | 13,456 | 14,712 | 10,566 | 7,321 | 6,396 |
| Hampshire | 5,665 | 6,420 | 7,252 | 6,075 | 5,504 | 5,043 | 5,363 |
| Hertfordshire | 2,135 | 2,862 | 2,790 | 2,300 | 2,110 | 2,359 | 2,195 |
| Humberside | 987 | 1,061 | 2,866 | 1,945 | 2,476 | 1,149 | 1,209 |
| Kent | 1,548 | 3,570 | 1,826 | 2,276 | 2,401 | 1,703 | 3,012 |
| Lancashire | 4,029 | 5,166 | 5,394 | 5,268 | 4,468 | 3,895 | 6,862 |
| Leicestershire | 1,200 | 1,896 | 2,303 | 2,047 | 1,791 | 1,789 | 3,091 |
| Lincolnshire | 1,896 | 2,120 | 3,907 | 3,579 | 4,176 | 3,729 | 4,316 |
| London, city of | 126 | 235 | 233 | 164 | 103 | 567 | 1,144 |
| Merseyside | 3,271 | 2,151 | 2,241 | 1,439 | 722 | 654 | 972 |
| Metropolitan Police District | 11,165 | 11,185 | 9,350 | 8,364 | 8,946 | 7,635 | 7,208 |
| Norfolk | 1,264 | 1,406 | 1,727 | 1,415 | 1,488 | 1,315 | 2,426 |
| Northamptonshire | 228 | 92 | 568 | 256 | 406 | 230 | 2,877 |
| Northumbria | 2,187 | 2,417 | 2,677 | 3,638 | 2,451 | 2,669 | 2,290 |
| North Yorkshire | 2,058 | 1,798 | 1,428 | 1,225 | 1,419 | 1,253 | 1,529 |
| Nottinghamshire | 606 | 1,110 | 1,295 | 1,399 | 1,764 | 2,065 | 3,828 |
| South Yorkshire | 2,320 | 2,366 | 2,375 | 2,560 | 2,690 | 1,868 | 1,231 |
| Staffordshire | 2,686 | 3,245 | 3,299 | 1,900 | 949 | 1,105 | 2,237 |
| Suffolk | 1,052 | 1,469 | 1,678 | 1,233 | 1,252 | 1,284 | 776 |
| Surrey | 1,482 | 2,151 | 3,236 | 2,927 | 3,478 | 2,021 | 1,508 |
| Sussex | 3,869 | 3,785 | 3,288 | 3,541 | 2,677 | 1,784 | 2,819 |
| Thames Valley | 9,571 | 14,349 | 10,879 | 7,845 | 9,264 | 11,086 | 9,416 |
| Warwickshire | 1,153 | 1,309 | 2,981 | 4,654 | 3,641 | 1,758 | 2,331 |
| West Mercia | 2,279 | 2,326 | 2,294 | 2,741 | 2,633 | 2,260 | 1,347 |
| West Midlands | 5,744 | 8,691 | 7,427 | 3,523 | 4,021 | 4,794 | 5,132 |
| West Yorkshire | 3,899 | 4,403 | 5,722 | 5,774 | 4,526 | 2,366 | 3,445 |
| Wiltshire | 4,511 | 5,454 | 5,690 | 2,325 | 2,192 | 2,696 | 4,057 |
| Dyfed Powys | 649 | 775 | 787 | 933 | 666 | 623 | 1,581 |
| Gwent | 4,751 | 6,368 | 7,408 | 4,041 | 2,826 | 2,245 | 2,655 |
| North Wales | 1,377 | 1,554 | 1,619 | 2,826 | 2,683 | 3,861 | 4,340 |
| South Wales | 2,020 | 2,691 | 2,752 | 2,739 | 1,791 | 2,015 | 2,959 |
| England and Wales | 132,796 | 153,495 | 153,572 | 141,415 | 135,613 | 124,619 | 140,052 |

| *Offence 816 (speed limit offences )* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 6,996 | 6,434 | 8,706 | 5,820 | 4,228 | 4,989 |
| Bedfordshire | 1,182 | 4,566 | 4,412 | 4,303 | 2,543 | 1,969 |
| Cambridgeshire | 1,778 | 2,210 | 3,492 | 4,218 | 4,126 | 3,211 |
| Cheshire | 4,185 | 2,807 | 2,637 | 3,151 | 2,852 | 2,712 |
| Cleveland | 1,732 | 1,132 | 1,362 | 1,212 | 811 | 586 |
| Cumbria | 2,377 | 2,576 | 2,986 | 2,493 | 2,022 | 2,056 |
| Derbyshire | 3,379 | 2,890 | 2,623 | 2,906 | 2,209 | 1,571 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 4,954 | 5,159 | 4,713 | 3,997 | 2,910 | 2,929 |
| Dorset | 1,710 | 3,130 | 3,059 | 2,401 | 2,032 | 1,764 |
| Durham | 739 | 395 | 358 | 661 | 634 | 523 |
| Essex | 8,405 | 10,063 | 7,787 | 7,330 | 5,397 | 4,257 |
| Gloucestershire | 811 | 766 | 1,431 | 1,133 | 633 | 735 |
| Greater Manchester | 4,838 | 7,355 | 6,845 | 4,607 | 4,958 | 4,372 |
| Hampshire | 4,304 | 5,126 | 4,644 | 4,920 | 4,444 | 3,863 |
| Hertfordshire | 1,823 | 3,010 | 2,936 | 2,538 | 2,438 | 3,844 |
| Humberside | 3,658 | 3,270 | 2,921 | 2,222 | 547 | 3,297 |
| Kent | 3,264 | 3,667 | 3,097 | 3,206 | 2,004 | 2,828 |
| Lancashire | 5,078 | 4,801 | 5,532 | 7,509 | 7,121 | 5,846 |
| Leicestershire | 2,235 | 2,238 | 2,601 | 1,835 | 2,535 | 2,728 |
| Lincolnshire | 4,396 | 4,409 | 3,376 | 3,822 | 3,986 | 3,383 |
| London, city of | 1,802 | 6,224 | 1,747 | 461 | 51 | 518 |
| Merseyside | 944 | 729 | 1,535 | 3,083 | 2,110 | 1,783 |
| Metropolitan Police District | 6,787 | 4,482 | 4,745 | 5,985 | 10,909 | 10,015 |
| Norfolk | 2,809 | 2,869 | 3,508 | 2,699 | 2,635 | 2,676 |
| Northamptonshire | 4,047 | 3,366 | 2,906 | 2,933 | 1,614 | 1,405 |
| Northumbria | 3,881 | 2,972 | 2,923 | 3,650 | 3,319 | 2,816 |
| North Yorkshire | 2,048 | 1,565 | 1,373 | 2,018 | 3,059 | 2,278 |

| *Offence 816 (speed limit offences)* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nottinghamshire | 4,213 | 4,657 | 3,986 | 3,436 | 2,916 | 3,071 |
| South Yorkshire | 2,655 | 4,158 | 4,626 | 4,245 | 1,566 | 1,673 |
| Staffordshire | 4,484 | 4,452 | 3,652 | 4,568 | 3,204 | 3,031 |
| Suffolk | 1,856 | 3,249 | 3,054 | 3,418 | 3,577 | 3,504 |
| Surrey | 287 | 2,886 | 3,846 | 3,531 | 2,832 | 2,677 |
| Sussex | 262 | 3,387 | 3,575 | 4,001 | 3,168 | 2,997 |
| Thames Valley | 8,019 | 8,338 | 7,588 | 5,935 | 4,698 | 6,451 |
| Warwickshire | 1,736 | 1,925 | 1,397 | 1,350 | 1,028 | 1,354 |
| West Mercia | 403 | 2,053 | 2,431 | 2,691 | 2,316 | 1,984 |
| West Midlands | 7,427 | 5,461 | 4,242 | 4,702 | 3,845 | 4,299 |
| West Yorkshire | 4,344 | 5,363 | 6,083 | 5,733 | 4,779 | 5,178 |
| Wiltshire | 4,055 | 4,212 | 4,338 | 5,043 | 4,029 | 4,558 |
| Dyfed Powys | 1,261 | 1,941 | 1,152 | 956 | 1,145 | 1,046 |
| Gwent | 2,283 | 2,103 | 1,287 | 1,129 | 497 | 1,494 |
| North Wales | 4,636 | 4,639 | 6,107 | 4,361 | 3,699 | 3,534 |
| South Wales | 4,217 | 3,390 | 2,828 | 2,415 | 2,180 | 2,501 |
| England and Wales | 143,200 | 160,425 | 154,447 | 148,627 | 127,606 | 128,306 |

## Drug Seizures

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to prevent illegal drugs from overseas reaching the UK. [46611]

**James Brokenshire:** The Government are committed to strengthening our international efforts to deter drug trafficking to the UK and to maximise success in tackling drug smuggling at our borders and traffickers at source and in transit countries. The Government's Drugs Strategy, "Reducing Demand, Restricting Supply, Building Recovery", was published in December 2010 and our approach to restricting the supply of illegal drugs from overseas is outlined on pages 14-17. The Strategy is available in the House Libraries and at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/drugs/drug-strategy/drug-strategy-2010?view=Binary

We continue to work with international partners, such as the European Union, G8 and United Nations, to encourage greater international effort.

We are also joining up our capacity with that of international partners in order to tackle the international drugs trade by making more effective use of all of the Government's capabilities overseas, including our diplomatic and other assets.

## Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

**Nicola Blackwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* scheduled and *(b)* unscheduled checks of (i) English language schools and (ii) other educational institutions the UK Border Agency performed in each of the last five years. [46962]

**Damian Green** *[holding answer 15 March 2011]:* We are unable to provide figures on the number of checks conducted by the UK Border Agency to English language schools and other educational institutions in each of the last five years. Although data are available from 2008, the information requested is not centrally recorded in the format required and could be obtained only by a manual check of all records at disproportionate cost.

We are able to provide data on the number of Tier 4 announced and unannounced visits undertaken since October 2010 until the end of February 2011. The number of Tier 4 announced visits is 269. The number of Tier 4 unannounced visits is 93. This includes pre-licence, post-licence and highly trusted sponsor visits.

The figures provided are based on management information that is not subject to the detailed checks that apply for national statistics. They are provisional and subject to change.

## Immigration

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the implications for the UK of the proposals in the EU Agenda for new skills and jobs in respect of migration; what assessment she has made of likely trends in migration to the UK from *(a)* EU and *(b)* non-EU countries; and if she will make a statement. [46853]

**Damian Green:** We do not anticipate that the EU New Skills and Jobs agenda will have any significant implications for migration to the UK. The Government will work to ensure that any specific legislative proposals respect national competence and the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, and are accompanied by a full impact assessment.

We use Office for National Statistics long-term international migration data to assess likely trends in migration to and from the UK. Historical data are available on the Office for National Statistics website. We monitor the trends in EU migration to the UK, as well as the number of British citizens returning and leaving. In recent years these have broadly balanced out, with the majority of net migration being explained by the balance of non-EU nationals. Our assessment of the likely trends in net migration from non-EU countries will be discussed in impact assessments supporting policies aimed at reducing net migration. These will be made publicly available on the UK Border Agency website.

### Missing Persons

**Mr Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to provide support for the Missing Rights campaign; and if she will make a statement. [46128]

**James Brokenshire** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* Family members going missing is a distressing and difficult experience for those left behind. Access to advice and support during this period can make a significant difference. The Missing People charity's Missing Rights campaign has suggested a range of steps which Government and others could take to improve services to missing people and their families. Those steps will help to inform our continuing work in this area.

### Offences against Children

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to prevent child sexual exploitation. [41211]

**Tim Loughton:** I have been asked to reply.

To tackle child sexual exploitation effectively there must be a collaborative approach involving Ministers from a range of Government Departments as well as local authority children's services, Local Safeguarding Children Boards, and organisations such as the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP), Barnardo's and others, including voluntary organisations around the country.

Within Government, working particularly closely with the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, my hon. Friend the Member for Old Bexley and Sidcup (James Brokenshire), who has responsibility for crime prevention, Prevention, the hon. Member for Old Bexley and Sidcup (James Brokenshire), and with national and local partners, I am leading our urgent work on what action needs to be taken to safeguard children and young people from sexual exploitation. This will build on existing guidance and our developing understanding of this appalling abuse including through local agencies' work around the country on effective prevention strategies, identifying those at risk of sexual exploitation, supporting victims, and taking robust action against perpetrators.

I met Barnardo's chief executive, Anne Marie Carrie, in January following the publication of their "Puppet on a string" report on child sexual exploitation to discuss this issue. In April I am holding a roundtable meeting with Ministers across Government and key local and national partners to discuss the further action necessary to address this issue.

### UK Border Agency: Public Appointments

**Nicola Blackwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to appoint a permanent chief executive of the UK Border Agency. [46036]

**Damian Green:** An open competition for the recruitment of a permanent chief executive of the United Kingdom Border Agency will be under way very shortly.

## TRANSPORT

### Ambulance Service: Safety Belts

**Mrs Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will consider the merits of introducing an exemption from requirements to wear seatbelts in motor vehicles for staff of ambulance services. [46508]

**Mike Penning:** The proposal to exempt ambulance crew from seat belt wearing would raise a variety of concerns. There is clearly a risk of personal injury to paramedics being unrestrained, not only to themselves but to patients and other passengers when an ambulance is being driven at speed in an emergency.

We would, however, be prepared to consider representations on this issue from the authorities responsible for providing ambulance services, and to establish what the current practice is and how far they support your proposal.

### Bembridge Harbour

**Mr Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on the future of Bembridge Harbour. [46313]

**Mike Penning** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* Since May 2010, we have received four representations on the future of Bembridge Harbour. A number of representations have also been addressed to officials.

### Biofuels

**Paul Maynard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to promote the greater use of wheat-based bioethanol; and if he will make a statement. [44661]

**Norman Baker:** The Government support the development of a sustainable biofuels industry, including wheat based bioethanol, through the renewable transport fuels obligation (RTFO). The RTFO requires fossil fuel suppliers over a certain size to supply a specified percentage of renewable fuel. Obligated suppliers are required to report on the sustainability of the biofuels they supply and the Government set voluntary greenhouse gas, environmental and social sustainability targets. Further information on the RTFO is available at

www.renewablefuelsagency.gov.uk

The European renewable energy directive (RED) requires member states to source 10% of transport energy from renewable sources by 2020 and sets mandatory sustainability standards for biofuels and bioliquids. We will consult shortly on proposals to amend the RTFO to meet the requirements of the RED.

### Bus Service Operators Grant

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what payments of Bus Service Operators Grant were made to each operator in 2009-10; and what estimates he has made of the payments to be made to each such operator in each year from 2010-11 to 2014-15. [46332]

**Norman Baker:** Data showing Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) payments made to bus operators in England are available on the DFT website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/buses/busgrants/bsog/661224

The data relate to the last full year period for which an operator has submitted a certified BSOG claim. These 'claim years' vary from operator to operator and they do not relate to a single financial year, but largely relate to the period 2009-10.

As an estimate, we expect to provide around £423 million in BSOG grants to local bus operators in England in 2010-11. No estimate is available of how much will be paid to individual operators. No estimate is available of payments from 2011-12 to 2014-15.

## Bus Services: Concessions

**Mr Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to his Department was of funding free bus passes for the elderly in the latest period in which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [46512]

**Norman Baker:** The majority of funding for concessionary travel is provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) through Formula Grant. From April 2011 the responsibility for the administration of travel concession schemes will move from lower tier authorities to upper tier authorities and all funding will be provided to those authorities through Formula Grant. Local authorities spend around £1 billion a year on statutory and discretionary concessionary travel schemes.

From 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2011, the Department for Transport also provided Special Grant funding to local authorities by way of transitional help to cover the extra costs of the England-wide off-peak bus travel concession, which was introduced on 1 April 2008. The Special Grant funding was £212 million in 2008-09, £217 million in 2009-10 and £223 million in 2010-11.

**Mr Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the take-up rate was by elderly people of free bus passes in the latest period in which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [46515]

**Norman Baker:** The National Travel Survey 2009 estimates that 76% of eligible older people take up their entitlement to free bus passes.

## Bus Services: Finance

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the savings accruing to his Department from changes to the Bus Service Operators Grant in the next four financial years. [42316]

**Norman Baker:** As part of the spending review, we announced that the rate of Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) would be maintained at its present level for 2011-12, then reduced by 20% from 2012-13. It is not possible to work out the exact saving this will bring, as the total amount of grant will depend on how much fuel is used by eligible bus services in each year, and how many buses are eligible for each of the specific incentives.

As an estimate, we expect to provide around £423 million in BSOG grants to local bus operators in England in 2010-11. Assuming a similar level of BSOG claims in each of the next four financial years, that would suggest a spend of £1,692 million if we had maintained the current BSOG rate. With a 20% reduction from 2012-13, we would expect spending of around £1,438 million, a saving of approximately £254 million.

## Departmental Energy

**Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has saved in *(a)* energy costs and *(b)* carbon dioxide emissions since bringing in real time energy display. [39634]

**Norman Baker:** The Department for Transport introduced real time energy display in July 2010. Real time energy display is one of many initiatives that the Department has introduced to reduce energy usage. Attributing actual savings to specific initiatives is not currently possible due to the number of initiatives that have been introduced; nor indeed do we have an equivalent baseline period against which to compare.

However, the introduction of this technology has enabled the Department to look at ways of trying to reduce its electricity base load and also investigate any peaks in consumption.

## Departmental Written Questions

**Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of written questions tabled to him for answer on a named day between 27 May 2010 and 9 March 2011 did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer. [46566]

**Norman Baker** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* Between 27 May 2010 and 9 March 2011 the Secretary of State for Transport received 608 questions for answer on a named day. Of these, 276 were answered on the day in question and four were transferred to another Department to reply. Six recent questions are due to be answered on future named days.

The number of questions that did not receive a substantive answer on the named day is 322 (53%).

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 Session were recently provided to the committee and are available on the Parliament website.

## Highways Agency: Finance

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps are planned to reduce the cost of contracts for the Highways Agency; and what estimate has been made of the level of savings that will arise from each planned action in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [46642]

**Mike Penning:** The Highways Agency Procurement strategy outlines the changes in approach to the supply chain that are being made to increase focus on "Value, Delivery and Sustainability" to deliver savings for the agency. These include implementing category management, changes to contract forms and closer engagement with the supply chain to encourage innovation.

The Highways Agency is also reviewing technical requirements as well as introducing them in to a new form of maintenance contract, the first of which will be tendered in 2011-12, to deliver savings from 2012-13 onwards. In the case of major projects, the introduction of category management, reducing waste and change in standards will be the key to achieving savings across the Highways Agency's programme. These will contribute to the savings detailed in the document published on the 28 October, "Investment in Highways Transport Schemes".

### Southeastern Franchies: Service Delivery

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* capacity benchmark figures and *(b)* service delivery benchmark figures have been in each month of operation of the Southeastern rail franchise. [43565]

**Mrs Villiers** *[holding answer 2 March 2011]:* The Cancellations and Service Delivery Benchmarks for the Southeastern franchise are set out in Appendices 5 and 7 of the Southeastern franchise agreement. This can be found at the following address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/passenger/publicregister/current/lser/lser_franchise.pdf

### Ports: Bankruptcy

**Mr Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what responsibilities he has with respect to the operation of ports and harbours which enter into bankruptcy. [46314]

**Mike Penning** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* The Secretary of State has no general powers to intervene in the business activities of ports.

The Secretary of State would consider what action to take in the event of a port or harbour's bankruptcy given individual circumstances and having regard to the legislation applicable to that port or harbour.

### Railways: Passengers

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the report of Passenger Focus on the operation of the assisted passenger reservation system, if he will take steps to encourage the rail industry to *(a)* install a new booking system that allows for monitoring of service delivery, *(b)* publish findings of the monitoring system and *(c)* set a service level target in each franchise. [35201]

**Norman Baker:** In response to the previous Passenger Focus report into the assisted passenger reservation system, published in 2008, the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) launched a project to improve the system. This is due to begin testing in the next few weeks and the Department for Transport is contributing £141,000 towards the cost from the Access for All Programme.

The new system will allow the Association of Train Operating Companies to monitor performance by train operator and individual station and we expect that the industry will publish this information. We are considering introducing service targets for each franchise once an industry wide consensus on fair and objective targets can be agreed.

### Road Traffic

**Kwasi Kwarteng:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to reduce road congestion. [45783]

**Mike Penning:** This Government's vision is for a transport system that is an engine for economic growth. A key part of this is tackling congestion and the unreliable journey times that congestion generates.

In regard to local highway authority managed roads, we have published a Local Transport White Paper. It explains how the Government are placing localism at the heart of the transport agenda, and taking measures to empower local authorities when it comes to tackling issues, such as congestion, in their areas.

In addition we are intending to commit £1.5 billion to local authority major transport schemes in the spending review period and a further £560 million through a new Local Sustainable Transport Fund.

On the strategic road network, we are taking forward a range of measures. This includes investment in 14 new major improvement schemes and delivery of a new National Traffic Information Service to enable motorists to make informed decisions about how to avoid congestion and thereby contribute to its reduction.

The Highways Agency Traffic Officer Service continues to play a vital role in swiftly clearing incidents and incident related congestion. We have also recently completed a review of motorway closure incidents, focusing on what improvements could be made to reduce incident durations. We are committed to ensuring that any improvements identified from the review are taken forward by December 2012.

### Sea Rescue

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to ensure the *(a)* evidence and *(b)* recommendations and the conclusions of the Transport Select Committee inquiry into coastguard reorganisation will be considered as part of the Department's consultation on the future of HM Coastguard. [45173]

**Mike Penning** *[holding answer 8 March 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement of 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 3WS.

## ATTORNEY-GENERAL

### Departmental Assets

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Attorney-General whether receipts from the sale of assets owned by regional development agencies are reflected in the spending plans of the Law Officers' Departments for *(a)* 2012-13 and *(b)* 2013-14. [47419]

**The Solicitor-General:** The sale of such assets has no impact on the Law Officers' Departments spending plans.

### Fraud: Prosecutions

**Catherine McKinnell:** To ask the Attorney-General if he will place in the Library a copy of each representation the Law Officers' Departments have received on the introduction of deferred prosecution agreements in respect of allegations of fraud and bribery. [46249]

**The Solicitor-General:** No such documents are available to be placed in the Library.

### HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate: Manpower

**Catherine McKinnell:** To ask the Attorney-General how many staff HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate expects to employ at the end of *(a)* March 2011 and *(b)* each subsequent financial year of the comprehensive spending review period. [46227]

**The Solicitor-General:** HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate's (HMCPSI) staff is composed of permanent staff and staff on loan from other Government Departments. At the end of March 2011 HMCPSI's staff complement is 43 of whom six are on loan from other Government Departments.

Currently there are no plans to change the number of full-time permanent staff during the comprehensive spending review period. HMCPSI will manage the numbers of staff on loan from other Government Departments as necessary.

### Serious Fraud Office: Finance

**Catherine McKinnell:** To ask the Attorney-General (1) what the *(a)* resource and *(b)* capital budget of the Serious Fraud Office will be in each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period; [46258]

(2) what the *(a)* resource and *(b)* capital budget is of the Serious Fraud Office in 2010-11. [46259]

**The Solicitor-General:** The resource and capital budget for the SFO for 2010-11 to 2014-15 is:

*£000*

| | *Resource* | *Capital* |
|---|---|---|
| 2010-11 | 36,931 | 3,100 |
| 2011-12 | 33,859 | 1,580 |
| 2012-13 | 32,130 | 1,600 |
| 2013-14 | 30,365 | 1,440 |
| 2014-15 | 29,282 | 1,820 |

**Catherine McKinnell:** To ask the Attorney-General pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 805W, on public expenditure, by how much the Serious Fraud Office expects to reduce expenditure under each budget heading in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [46267]

**The Solicitor-General:** The information requested is contained in the following table.

*£000*

| *Resource DEL* | *2011-12* | *2012-13* | *2013-14* | *2014-15* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Staff | -1,116 | -3,038 | -3,642 | -3,748 |
| Accommodation | 0 | 0 | -1,700 | -1,700 |
| Non Pay Costs | -1,222 | -1,578 | -1,520 | -3,626 |
| Total Savings Identified (Gross) | -2,338 | 4,616 | -6,862 | -9,074 |

The Department's expenditure reduction plans are kept under continuous review and the value of individual components may change over time.

### Serious Fraud Office: Manpower

**Catherine McKinnell:** To ask the Attorney-General (1) how many staff the Serious Fraud Office expects to employ *(a)* at the end of March 2011 and *(b)* at the end of each subsequent financial year of the comprehensive spending review period; [46257]

(2) how many witness care officers the Serious Fraud Office *(a)* employed at the end of 2009-10 and *(b)* expects to employ at the end of (i) 2010-11 and (ii) each financial year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; [46263]

(3) how many people the Serious Fraud Office expects to employ as *(a)* investigators and *(b)* lawyers in its Proceeds of Crime Unit at the end of (i) March 2011 and (ii) each subsequent financial year in the comprehensive spending review period. [46264]

**The Solicitor-General:** The information requested for 2010-11 is outlined as follows.

| | *Staff* | *Witness care officers* | *Proceeds of crime unit investigators* | *Proceeds of crime unit lawyers* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2011 | 365 | 2 | 11 | 6 |

Plans are currently under way to increase the numbers of proceeds of crime investigators from 11 to 14, and proceeds of crime lawyers from six to seven in 2012.

Staffing levels beyond April 2011 will be kept under review in order to ensure that the SFO is able discharge its functions efficiently and effectively and within the resources available to it.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Salt Awareness Week

**Mr Knight:** To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, whether the House of Commons catering service has plans to promote Salt Awareness Week. [46803]

**John Thurso:** The House of Commons catering and retail services will be marking Salt Awareness week (21-25 March 2011) in all cafeterias across the parliamentary estate by displaying notices publicising Salt Awareness Week and reminding customers that, routinely, a lower sodium-based salt is used in all cooking processes. There will also be flyers on display produced by Consensus Action on Salt and Health to help raise awareness. Lo-salt is provided in all cafeteria salt cellars.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Libya: Higher Education

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Prime Minister whether 10 Downing Street has *(a)* had any discussions with and *(b)* provided any assistance to British universities in securing (i) contracts and (ii) financial support from Libya in the last 10 years. [46072]

**The Prime Minister:** Since I took office there have been no such discussions or assistance. I am not responsible for the actions of the previous Administration.

## DEFENCE

### Air Force: Military Bases

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library each item of correspondence his Department has received from HM Treasury in respect of its RAF basing review. [46211]

**Nick Harvey:** The analysis of the Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s estates and basing requirements goes far beyond a "RAF basing review". The MOD is currently undertaking a comprehensive review of the estates and basing implications of the conclusions of the Strategic Defence and Security Review and the comprehensive spending review. This does include the consequences of the changes to the RAF's force structure, but also includes the basing, accommodation and training requirements in the UK of units returning from Germany; changes to the structure of the Army; reductions in the overall numbers of service personnel and MOD civil servants; and the requirement to achieve efficiencies from better use of the Defence estate. As a matter of routine business this work is being undertaken with the involvement of officials from HM Treasury, but it would not be appropriate to place correspondence from Treasury officials on the policy making process in the Library of the House.

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence his Department received from hon. Members in respect of its RAF basing review. [46212]

**Nick Harvey:** Correspondence between hon. Members and Ministers is not normally disclosed in order to protect confidentiality.

### Air Force: Redundancy

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many trainee pilots on courses of study leading to qualifications for flying Harrier aircraft have been made redundant to date under his Department's recent redundancy programme. [46297]

**Nick Harvey:** None.

### Ammunition

**Dr Huppert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the operational life is of the *(a)* L16, *(b)* L17 and *(c)* L18 propellant charges used for kinetic energy penetrator ammunition; [45750]

(2) whether his Department plans to (a) replace or (b) extend the life of the propellant charge used in kinetic energy penetrator ammunition. [46048]

**Peter Luff:** The life of L16, L17 and L18 propellant charges in kinetic energy penetrator ammunition depends on whether the ammunition has been issued to operational (deployed) units or whether it is held in conditioned storage. In the case of deployed ammunition, the life of the charges is normally six months; for ammunition in conditioned storage this varies from between five and 10 years.

The life of the propellant charges used in kinetic energy penetrator ammunition is extended provided it is shown to be safe and suitable for continued service. This is demonstrated through a rigorous in-service surveillance programme. While there are currently no plans to replace the propellant charge used in kinetic energy penetrator ammunition, we do investigate options to replace existing charge systems when the current in-service systems can no longer be supported.

### Amphibious Vehicles

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the suitability of Bay-class landing ship docks for humanitarian assistance duties; [46287]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average lifespan of a Bay-class landing ship dock; [46288]

(3) what assessment he has made of the suitability of Bay-class landing ship docks for undertaking the duties of Atlantic Patrol Ship (North); [46290]

(4) what assessment he has made of the suitability of *(a)* RFA Fort George and *(b)* RFA Largs Bay for counter-piracy operations. [46293]

**Nick Harvey:** The Royal Navy has a range of vessels that are used to carry out humanitarian assistance, Atlantic patrol and counter-piracy operations.

The standard service life of Bay Class Landing Ship Dock Auxiliary (LSDA) is 25 years as articulated in the staff requirement document and reflected in the Royal Navy Plan 2010. The Bay class LSDA when appropriately enhanced with aviation and surface manoeuvre assets (eg Landing Craft, Mexefloat rafts), has been suitable as a platform from which to deliver humanitarian aid such as RFA Largs Bay's contribution to the international humanitarian mission in the wake of the earthquake in

Haiti in January 2010. When enhanced with aviation assets, Royal Navy and Royal Marine specialist manpower, it has been suitable for the task of Atlantic Patrol Task (North). For example, in December 2007 RFA Largs Bay had a successful counter-narcotics interdiction in the Caribbean in which the items seized had a street value of £20 million. When enhanced with aviation assets, Royal Marine Boarding Teams and Royal Navy Medical Staff, the units have the capability to be employed as platforms conducting counter-piracy operations. For example, RFA Fort Victoria conducted a successful patrol in the Somali Basin in 2010.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role RFA Largs Bay undertook in providing humanitarian relief to Haiti following the earthquake in that country in 2010; and if he will make a statement. [46292]

**Nick Harvey:** At the Department for International Development's request, the Ministry of Defence sent a Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) ship, RFA Largs Bay, to carry vital relief supplies to Haiti. These included shelter materials to rebuild homes as well as critically needed port handling equipment and vehicles for use by Save the Children, the International Federation of the Red Cross and other humanitarian agencies

RFA Largs Bay arrived in Haiti on 18 February 2010, delivered her cargo of aid and then provided further support to the World Food Programme under the direction of the Department for International Development. This principally consisted of distributing food aid from Port-au-Prince to more remote locations around the Haitian coast.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what recent assessment he has made of the contribution of RFA Fort Victoria to counter piracy activities; and whether further such contributions are planned; [46294]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the contribution of HMS Cornwall to international counter-piracy activity. [46295]

**Nick Harvey:** RFA Fort Victoria and HMS Cornwall, among other Royal Navy vessels, have made valuable contributions to the international counter-piracy missions off the Horn of Africa in the past 12 months.

RFA Fort Victoria is currently scheduled to take part in counter-piracy activity this year. However, the tasking of assets is subject to change in order to allow flexibility to meet evolving operational requirements.

## Armed Forces: Pay

**Stuart Andrew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what rate of local overseas allowance is payable to personnel based in each overseas location. [44721]

**Mr Robathan** *[holding answer 7 March 2011]:* The local overseas allowance is a cost of living allowance tailored for each country. The pay ranges in the following table reflect the payments for those who are posted unaccompanied and those who are accompanied without children. The rates paid to individuals then vary based on other factors such as the number of children, the length of posting or whether food and accommodation are provided. All figures are presented in pound sterling and represent the daily rate payable in each country.

| | *Daily rate* | |
|---|---|---|
| *Country* | *Unaccompanied pay range* | *Accompanied pay range* |
| Antigua | £34.55 - £44.10 | £29.38 - £39.36 |
| Argentina | £24.84 - £24.26 | £19.94 - £19.16 |
| Ascension Island | £0.06 - £1.20 | £12.72 - £13.71 |
| Australia | £28.27 - £55.80 | £34.21 - £82.92 |
| Bahrain (exclusive of operations) | £10.23 - £18.37 | £12.73 - £27.11 |
| Bahrain (operations) | £11.58 - £22.26 | n/a |
| Barbados | £40.52 - £50.45 | £35.97 - £46.17 |
| Belgium | £15.33 - £33.48 | £22.18 - £51.36 |
| Belize | £13.06 - £27.19 | £24.53 - £51.64 |
| Bermuda | £70.12 - £97.14 | £72.53 - £101.30 |
| Bosnia | £28.68 - £30.00 | £27.49 - £29.90 |
| Brazil | £49.53 - £70.59 | £48.13 - £71.13 |
| Brunei (excluding loan service personnel) | £13.55 - £16.54 | £28.15 - £31.97 |
| Brunei (loan service personnel) | £16.42 - £19.72 | £18.50 - £42.28 |
| Bulgaria | £34.16 - £34.88 | £33.26 - £34.30 |
| Canada (Alberta) | £26.69 - £43.70 | £34.70 - £71.09 |
| Canada (elsewhere) | £24.20 - £41.08 | £24.19 - £69.73 |
| Chile | £39.01 - £42.08 | £38.96 - £42.79 |
| Colombia | £47.47 - £60.67 | £54.25 - £69.46 |
| Cyprus | £13.19 - £21.86 | £19.16 - £43.39 |
| Czech Republic | £28.64 - £29.72 | £24.63 - £26.33 |
| Denmark | £36.89 - £56.67 | £28.99 - £50.10 |
| Diego Garcia | £0 | £0 |
| Djibouti | £57.64 - £79.51 | £63.44 - £86.24 |
| Eritrea | £57.64 - £79.51 | £63.44 - £86.24 |
| Estonia | £24.99 - £28.71 | £19.19 - £23.66 |
| Ethiopia | £27.30 - £28.84 | £28.88 - £33.05 |
| Falkland Islands | £1.28 - £3.08 | £11.90 - £19.02 |
| France | £25.25 - £44.84 | £27.42 - £52.41 |
| Germany (main) | £10.05 - £17.72 | £12.17 - £22.93 |
| Germany (US zone) | £12.67 - £20.90 | £13.18 - £22.58 |
| Germany (elsewhere) | £12.11 - £19.76 | £13.13 - £23.92 |
| Ghana | £33.26 - £41.13 | £30.84 - £38.95 |
| Gibraltar | £4.39 - £13.30 | £11.83 - £25.10 |
| Greece | £23.95 - £30.63 | £16.47 - £23.94 |
| India | £29.53 - £31.09 | £31.41 - £36.57 |
| Indonesia | £45.95 - £53.09 | £58.93 - £66.67 |
| Italy | £16.61 - £34.03 | £27.78 - £61.76 |
| Jordan | £34.40 - £40.72 | £32.30 - £39.26 |
| Kenya | £5.26 - £6.36 | £20.13 - £28.50 |
| Kuwait | £9.16 - £14.67 | £22.28 - £39.65 |
| Latvia | £31.66 - £33.52 | £27.94 - £30.18 |
| Liberia | £54.93 - £71.80 | £64.55 - £82.35 |
| Luxembourg | £27.44 - £33.41 | £21.04 - £27.65 |
| Macedonia | £21.06 - £22.72 | £14.80 - £18.90 |
| Malaysia | £26.57 - £28.40 | £26.05 - £27.65 |
| Nepal | £1.55 - £2.00 | £6.81 - £7.33 |
| Netherlands | £9.60 - £19.30 | £14.03 - £24.83 |
| New Zealand | £17.22 - £19.94 | £7.75 - £10.65 |
| Nigeria | £64.00 - £86.04 | £76.83 - £99.79 |
| Norway (main) | £39.62 - £81.91 | £37.17 - £94.36 |
| Norway (north) | £40.13 - £83.73 | £38.07 - £97.66 |
| Oman | £22.10 - £40.74 | £27.57 - £56.48 |

| | *Daily rate* | |
|---|---|---|
| *Country* | *Unaccompanied pay range* | *Accompanied pay range* |
| Pakistan | £49.94 | £58.74 - £72.38 |
| Poland | £19.61 - £20.67 | £11.56 - £15.56 |
| Portugal | £11.55 - £17.76 | £18.24 - £37.68 |
| Qatar | £38.02 - £41.51 | £37.43 - £41.41 |
| Romania | £21.22 - £22.67 | £15.52 - £18.92 |
| Russia | £54.55 - £75.93 | £58.38 - £81.42 |
| Saudi Arabia | £0 | £0 |
| Saudi Arabia (stand alone teams) | £0 - £2.14 | £3.51 - £7.25 |
| Sierra Leone | £8.76 - £13.60 | £16.09 - £33.96 |
| Singapore | £39.95 - £53.91 | £35.87 - £51.17 |
| Slovakia | £27.86 - £29.99 | £25.31 - £27.38 |
| South Africa | £25.15 | £15.27 - £21.96 |
| Spain | £22.89 - £27.22 | £15.78 - £20.73 |
| Sri Lanka | £31.82 - £32.13 | £33.50 - £37.60 |
| Sudan | £66.45 - £75.08 | £88.62 - £97.76 |
| Sweden | £32.27 - £43.20 | £26.05 - £37.95 |
| Switzerland | £39.51 - £60.42 | £32.39 - £54.80 |
| Turkey | £34.30 - £41.77 | £32.07 - £40.34 |
| Ukraine | £29.04 - £29.70 | £28.92 - £30.31 |
| United Arab Emirates | £31.37 - £31.75 | £29.61 - £30.28 |
| USA | £13.88 - £23.89 | £18.99 - £41.29 |
| Yemen | £40.72 | £47.37 - £57.47 |

n/a = not applicable

### Armed Forces: Redundancy

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the oral answer of 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 815, on the armed forces (redundancies), on what date and at what time *(a)* the private office of each Minister in his Department and *(b)* he and each other Minister in his Department was first informed that emails had been sent to service personnel to inform them of the termination of their employment; and by whom each was informed. [46655]

**Mr Robathan:** Ministerial outer offices were horrified to learn of this matter during the early hours of 15 February 2011 and subsequently informed their respective Ministers. The Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), made clear on 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 815, his displeasure at the handling of this matter and explained that arrangements have been put in place to ensure that this does not happen again.

### Army: Redundancy

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many regional brigade headquarters his Department plans to close; how many redundancies he expects to result from such closures; and whether this figure has been reckoned among the 25,000 civilian staff redundancies already announced; [46465]

(2) how many redundancies he estimates there will be as a result of the closure of each of the regional divisional headquarters; and whether this figure has been reckoned among the 25,000 civilian staff redundancies already announced. [46466]

**Mr Robathan:** As we set out in the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) White Paper (CM 7948) we plan to replace the Army's four regional divisional headquarters with a single UK support command and to close at least two of the Army's 10 regional brigade headquarters, thereby enhancing our focus on front-line capabilities. Detailed planning is currently being undertaken to examine how best to take the SDSR direction forward, taking account of work ongoing across all three services on future basing requirements. Announcements will be made in due course.

It is too early to say how many military and civilian posts will be saved by the reduction in the number of Army regional headquarters. It is also too early to say whether any civilian redundancies will be required either to manage these changes or to meet the MOD's overall civilian personnel reduction target of 25,000. Every effort will be made to avoid redundancies through the established measures laid down for managing surplus staff.

I can confirm, however, that they will be included in the 25,000 civilian staff reduction targets announced in the SDSR White Paper.

### Cyprus: Birds

**Michael Fallon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports he has received on the illegal trafficking of songbirds at UK sovereign bases in Cyprus. [47160]

**Nick Harvey:** I am not aware of any reports of the illegal trafficking of songbirds in the UK sovereign bases in Cyprus but the illegal trapping of songbirds is a recognised issue across the whole of Cyprus. Combating this issue is one of the key priorities for the UK sovereign base area police who have a dedicated team specifically tasked with policing this activity.

### Departmental Pay

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to ensure that his published departmental organisational chart includes the names and responsibilities of all staff paid over £58,200 per annum in his Department and in the non-departmental public bodies and agencies for which he is responsible. [43532]

**Mr Robathan:** The coalition Government are committed to improving transparency and the coalition programmes include commitments to publish salary information for the most senior civil servants and to publish organograms for the entire organisation.

As a first step, the Government published the details of 345 senior officials in departments, agencies and non-departmental public bodies in post at 31 March 2010 whose rate of pay was £150,000 or more. Publication of name, job title and base salary details was then extended to some lower levels of the senior civil service (SCS) as part of the organograms that were published last October.

Although individualised salary details for the most junior level of the SCS (Pay bands 1 and 1A) were not released, the numbers and grades of staff in each of their teams and the total salary costs of the team were published. Organograms will next be updated by the end of May to show structures as at 31 March 2011.

Good progress is being made across the civil service and beyond in improving transparency of how government works and uses its resources. We are now in a period of consolidating and embedding transparency processes into business as usual. We are always looking to go further and we will continue over the coming months to review, and where necessary improve, the quality and extent of data being released.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the potential saving to his Department from the reductions in expenditure on *(a)* food, *(b)* energy, *(c)* professional services and *(d)* other commodities committed to in the strategic defence and spending review; [46463]

(2) whether his Department has estimated the potential cost savings from the commitment in the strategic defence spending review to rationalise wider equipment holdings in the light of experience on operations and fleet management; [46467]

(3) what estimate he has made of the potential savings to his Department of a reduction in defence equipment and support; and whether the proposed reduction will entail redundancies. [46468]

**Peter Luff:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 29 November 2010, *Official Report,* column 582W. It is too early to say what potential savings may accrue from the strategic defence and security review in all of the detailed categories listed. Where estimates of itemised savings have been made, I am withholding these as their premature disclosure would be likely to prejudice the formulation of Government policy and the Ministry of Defence's commercial interests. Much work is now required to work through the detailed implications of strategic defence and security review decisions and their implementation. We will be providing the fullest possible information as progress is made.

### Departmental Travel

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on travel in each month in the period from January 2009 to March 2010. [45852]

**Mr Robathan:** Ministry of Defence monthly expenditure on travel between January 2009 and March 2010 was as follows:

| | *Expenditure (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| January 2009 | 14.7 |
| February 2009 | 18.9 |
| March 2009 | 20.2 |
| April 2009 | 22.1 |
| May 2009 | 20.0 |
| June 2009 | 20.6 |
| July 2009 | 23.2 |
| August 2009 | 19.1 |
| September 2009 | 16.2 |
| October 2009 | 19.2 |
| November 2009 | 19.3 |
| December 2009 | 16.7 |
| January 2010 | 10.9 |
| February 2010 | 13.5 |
| March 2010 | 15.6 |

These figures include, for both service and civilian staff, the cost of travel and accommodation booked centrally, the reimbursement of expenses incurred when using their own vehicle for duty journeys, most rail fares not booked centrally and some car hire costs. The figures also include expenses reimbursed to civilian staff for overnight accommodation, subsistence, taxi, bus and underground fares, parking charges and road tolls, and most of their air fares not booked centrally. Costs of the MOD's White Fleet are not included as they are not recorded on a monthly basis; however, we estimate that White Fleet contract and fuel costs averaged around £4.5 million a month. The figures also do not include all travel and subsistence costs reimbursed to service personnel, but we are currently improving the accessibility of these in the interests of transparency.

By whatever means staff travel, they must do so in a way that is the most economical in both money and official time.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of written questions tabled to him for answer on a named day between 27 May 2010 and 9 March 2011 did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer. [46554]

**Mr Robathan:** The Ministry of Defence received 781 written questions tabled for answer on a named day between 27 May 2010 and 9 March 2011, of which 41% (323) did not receive a substantive answer on the day named. The Government are committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to Government Departments' performance in answering written parliamentary questions on a sessional basis. Statistics for the 2009-10 session were recently provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

### European Fighter Aircraft: Radar

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the suitability of an active electronically scanned array for the third tranche of Typhoon aircraft; [46672]

(2) what discussions his Department has had with the EuroRadar consortium on the research and development of the Captor-E Active Electronically Scanned Array; [46675]

(3) whether *(a)* current in-service Typhoon aircraft and *(b)* Typhoon aircraft that have not yet been delivered will be equipped with a Captor-E Active Electronically Scanned Array; [46676]

(4) what recent discussions he has had with EuroRadar consortium on equipping Typhoon aircraft with the Captor-E Active Electronically Scanned Array. [46677]

**Peter Luff:** We are continuously reviewing Typhoon's capability to meet operational needs. The Ministry of Defence has recognised the benefits which Electronically Scanned Radar could bring to Typhoon and has commissioned Selex-Galileo, the UK partner company in the EuroRadar consortium, to undertake a Technology Demonstrator Programme to increase the maturity of some aspects of the technology.

A decision has not yet been taken on equipping in-service Typhoon aircraft or those yet to be delivered with an Electronically Scanned Radar. Constructive discussions have been held between the four partner nations and industry on equipping Typhoon with an Electronically Scanned Radar for national and export customers, and UK aircraft within the third tranche of Typhoon are being provisioned to enable such updates to be performed in the most economical way at the appropriate time.

### Germany: Military Bases

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what proportion of the soldiers currently based in Germany will live in existing service accommodation upon their transfer to UK bases; [45765]

(2) what assessment he has made of the new infrastructure which will be required to be built to accommodate troops returning from Germany *(a)* before 2015 and *(b)* before 2020. [45897]

**Oliver Colvile:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the unit cost to the public purse of relocating to the UK families of Army personnel stationed in Germany; [45926]

(2) what timetable his Department has set for the relocation to the UK of service families resident in Germany. [46001]

**Nick Harvey** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* Detailed work is currently under way which will determine how the Government will implement the Germany rebasing policy announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR). Until that work has been completed and final decisions have been taken, it is not possible to provide the information. Details of costs, timetables and infrastructure requirements are all contingent on the precise way in which the rebasing will take place and the use to which the UK Defence estate will be put.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 582W, on returning troop costs (Germany), what estimate he has made of the financial savings from withdrawal of forces from Germany in each of the next 10 years; [45830]

(2) how much he expects his Department to save from troops currently based in Germany becoming based in the UK in each financial year from 2015 to 2030. [45898]

**Nick Harvey:** The Ministry of Defence (MOD) does not yet have detailed estimates of the overall financial savings arising from the Government's rebasing policy, or a profile for the realisation of these savings over the coming years. Such information depends on the way in which the policy is implemented. This has yet to be finalised. The MOD can, however, provide details of expected savings in personnel costs. The latest estimate (January 2011) is that the saving to the Defence budget from repatriation would be approximately £5.5 million per unit (approx 600 personnel) per annum—so approximately £183 million per annum once all 20,000 personnel have been returned to the UK. This figure includes allowances, travel and subsistence and posting costs (approximately £2.3 million per unit per annum) and approximately £3.2 million per unit per annum in health care and education costs, because Defence is the sole provider for British soldiers and their dependants when posted in Germany. The MOD will also expect to make considerable savings in infrastructure and operating costs.

### Harrier Aircraft

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether his Department has plans to recover *(a)* equipment and *(b)* systems installed in Harrier aircraft for use elsewhere; [46284]

(2) whether his Department plans to *(a)* sell and *(b)* dismantle any Harrier aircraft; [46285]

(3) what plans his Department has for the Harrier aircraft deleted from service. [46654]

**Peter Luff:** The fleet of Harrier aircraft is currently in storage while disposal options, including sale to other countries, are explored. It is too early to say what the final disposal arrangements will be or whether onboard equipment and systems will be used on other in-service aircraft.

### HMS Astute

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Board of Inquiry to issue its report on the recent grounding of HMS Astute; and if he will place in the Library a copy of that report upon issue. [46678]

**Nick Harvey:** The service inquiry report into the grounding of HMS Astute is still under consideration as further investigations are currently taking place as a result of matters identified in the report.

In accordance with standard departmental procedures the service inquiry report will be placed on the Ministry of Defence website in due course.

### Improvised Explosive Devices

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on capability to counter the use of improvised explosive devices in each financial year from 2000-01 to 2010-11. [45866]

**Peter Luff:** This information is not held centrally and, given the wide range of techniques and procedures involved, could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, as announced by the Prime Minister on 10 June 2010 up to an additional £67 million from the reserve was allocated last year to support the campaign to counter the improvised explosive device (IED) threat in Afghanistan.

### Military Aircraft: Helicopters

**Mr Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to purchase helicopters for the RAF. [45930]

**Peter Luff** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]*: As announced in the strategic defence and security review, there is a capability requirement for additional helicopter capacity and the planned procurement of 12 additional Chinooks, plus a further two to replace those lost on operations in Afghanistan in 2009, remains the best way to meet that requirement. The Department is currently engaging with Boeing to secure the best deal for the armed forces and the taxpayer.

We are in the process of completing our annual planning round, which will allocate programme budgets. We will announce any significant procurement decisions to Parliament in the usual way.

### Navy: Ships

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Royal Naval ships have participated in anti-piracy patrols off the coast of Somalia in each of the last five years. [45384]

**Nick Harvey:** Currently HMS Richmond is supporting Op Atalanta (EUNAVFOR counter-piracy) and will support Op Ocean Shield (NATO counter-piracy) later in the year. HMS Cornwall is the current flag ship for the Multi- National Maritime Task Force for Counter Piracy in the Gulf of Aden and the east coast of Somalia.

The following Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) vessels have participated in anti-piracy patrols off the coast of Somalia in the last five years.

*2010*

HMS Northumberland
HMS Chatham
RFA Fort Victoria
HMS Cumberland
HMS Lancaster
HMS Montrose
HMS Cornwall

*2009*

HMS Cornwall
HMS Lancaster
RFA Wave Knight
HMS Richmond
HMS Cumberland

*2008*

HMS Northumberland
HMS Argyll
HMS Montrose
HMS Sutherland
HMS Chatham
HMS Kent
HMS Lancaster
HMS Portland

*2007*

None specifically for counter-piracy but HMS Argyll, HMS Campbeltown and HMS Richmond were deployed for broader maritime security, east of Suez.

### New Zealand: Earthquakes

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department considered the merits of providing naval assistance to New Zealand following the recent earthquake in that country. [46291]

**Nick Harvey:** On hearing of the earthquake, the Secretary of State telephoned the New Zealand Defence Secretary to pass on his condolences and to extend an offer of assistance from the UK. After assessing the damage and the type of recovery work to be undertaken, the New Zealand Government only made a formal request to the UK for specialised search and rescue assistance.

As naval assistance was not required by the Government of New Zealand, the UK Ministry of Defence discontinued any further consideration of the merits of providing such maritime assistance.

### Point Class Ships: Public Finance

**Steve Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* difference in cost compared to the original estimate is of the procurement of six commercial Point Class ships under the private finance initiative which are available for use as naval auxiliaries to the British armed forces. [45353]

**Peter Luff:** Under a private finance initiative arrangement, the Ministry of Defence charters from Foreland Shipping Ltd the services of up to six roll-on/roll-off (RORO) sealift ships (the Point Class) to carry out defence resupply and sustainment tasks.

The contract was placed in 2002 at a price of £806 million with provision for variation of price in line with inflation. The contract will run to the end of 2024 and is currently meeting the performance, cost and time targets that were set in the original business case.

Actual spend against the contract up to August 2010 is £260 million.

### Seas and Oceans: Piracy

**Steve Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to explore the widest possible range of private sector defence alternatives for combating piracy on the high seas. [45351]

**Nick Harvey:** The Department for Transport and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office lead on Her Majesty's Government (HMG) maritime security policy and engagement with the maritime industry.

HMG remains open to all proposals which seek to assist in combating piracy off the Horn of Africa.

### Somalia: Piracy

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he made of the threat to international shipping from Somali piracy. [46457]

**Nick Harvey:** In 2010 there were 184 pirate attacks on shipping of which 43 were successful compared to 2009 where there were 190 attacks of which 47 were successful.

We therefore continue to take the situation off the coast of Somalia very seriously and have played an important role in developing the military response to pirate activity. We have key command roles within all of the international task forces and regularly contribute assets to them.

Piracy is a symptom of wider instability in Somalia and the Ministry of Defence continues to work comprehensively with other Government Departments and the international community as part of a coherent strategy to address the root causes of piracy.

### Strategic Defence and Security Review

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much he expects his Department to save as a result of sale of the *(a)* Defence Support Group, *(b)* Marchwood Sea Mounting Centre and *(c)* Defence stake in the telecommunications spectrum in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [45924]

**Peter Luff:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 29 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 582W. It is too early to say what potential savings may accrue from the strategic defence and security review in all of the detailed categories listed. Where estimates of itemised savings have been made, I am withholding these as their disclosure would prejudice commercial interests. Much work is now required to work through the detailed implications of strategic defence and security review decisions and their implementation. We will be providing the fullest possible information as progress is made.

### Surveillance

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions his Department has had with its *(a)* US and *(b)* NATO counterparts on sharing surveillance capabilities. [45904]

**Mr Gerald Howarth:** Ministers and officials regularly discuss surveillance platforms with our US and NATO allies. This includes co-operative surveillance projects such as Rivet Joint and Scavenger.

### Type 22 Frigates

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average running cost to a Type-22 batch 3 frigate was in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [46296]

**Peter Luff:** The in-service operating costs of an individual Type 22 frigate can vary as these costs are heavily influenced by an individual ship's operational tasking and upkeep and maintenance regime during any particular 12 month period. Taking account of this, the Department has calculated that the average running cost of a Type 22 frigate in financial year 2009-10 was £33 million. This figure includes maintenance, safety certification, military upgrades, manpower, inventory, satellite communication, fuel costs and depreciation.

### Type 26 Frigates

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what changes to design costs there have been as a result of the decision to combine the C1 and C2 requirements into a single variant for Type 26 Global Combat Ship design. [46674]

**Peter Luff:** The cost to the Department of progressing the Type 26 Global Combat Ship from the concept stage through to the completion of the four-year assessment stage is estimated to be approximately £170 million. This figure, which includes the design cost for the vessel, remains unchanged following the strategic defence and security review.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Afghanistan: Politics and Government

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of recent progress in reaching local and regional political settlements in Afghanistan. [45378]

**Mr Hague:** Any political settlement in Afghanistan needs to be Afghan-led. In October last year, the Afghan Government established the High Peace Council to lead its efforts. The work of the council so far includes convening Governors' Roadshows in six provinces to take forward the reintegration of former fighters into mainstream communities and outreach visits to Pakistan and Turkey. We welcome these steps as evidence that the Afghan Government are making progress, locally and regionally, towards a political settlement.

### BBC World Service: India

**Joseph Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of regular weekly listeners of BBC World Service Hindi-language radio broadcasts in each year since 2006. [44704]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** The BBC World Service analyses audience figures for the BBC Hindi short wave radio broadcasts. Listenership was 19.1 million in 2007 and 10.9 million in 2010. No full audience surveys were carried out in the intervening years.

**Joseph Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what cost benefit analysis his Department conducted prior to the decision to end BBC World Service transmission of Hindi-language radio broadcasts from 1 April 2011. [44707]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** Under the broadcasting agreement between the BBC World Service and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the BBC World Service has managerial independence, except for the opening or closing of language services which requires the written authority of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. The original decision to end short wave broadcasts in Hindi was a platform change, rather than closure of a language service, so the FCO was not consulted. Following the announcement on 26 January 2011, the BBC World Service decided to retain the short wave service for one hour per day. The BBC Hindi service will continue to be transmitted on FM and online.

### China: Prisons

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many visits to prisons in China have been made by British embassy staff in the last 12 months; and how many *(a)* UK nationals and *(b)* non-UK nationals were seen. [46958]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** In the last 12 months, staff at our embassy and consulates general in China made thirty-one prison visits to UK nationals in China. In addition staff visited two Chinese prisons in connection with human rights project work.

### European Court of Human Rights

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UK plans to send representatives to the Council of Europe high level conference on the future of the European Court of Human Rights in April 2011; and if he will make a statement. [47090]

**Mr Lidington:** The UK will be represented. It will be decided nearer the time at what level the UK will be represented, in the light of ongoing discussions about the format and subject matter of the conference.

### Hungary: Politics and Government

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with their Hungarian counterparts on political reform in Hungary. [45319]

**Mr Hague:** UK Ministers and officials have had regular contact with their Hungarian counterparts over the past few months. I meet the Hungarian Foreign Minister, János Martonyi, every month, while the Minister for Europe, my right hon. Friend the Member for Aylesbury (Mr Lidington), also spoke with his Hungarian counterpart in January 2011. These discussions covered political and economic developments across Europe.

### Libya: British Nationals Abroad

**Mr Frank Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what dates his Department chartered each aircraft to evacuate UK nationals from Tripoli; and on what date and at what time each *(a)* arrived at and *(b)* departed from Tripoli Airport. [44432]

**Alistair Burt:** As soon as it became clear on the night of 21 February 2011 that there would be no further commercial flights to the UK from Tripoli, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs decided that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) should charter flights to bring those British nationals who wished to leave Tripoli back to the United Kingdom. The FCO worked continuously to establish the number of British nationals wishing to leave Libya and chartered aircraft or arranged other exit routes to ensure that those who wanted to leave were able to do so.

The FCO organised six aircraft to evacuate British nationals from Tripoli:

FCO charter flight 1 arrived at Tripoli airport at 2.47 am on 24 February 2011 and departed at 9.21 am on 24 February 2011.

FCO charter flight 2 arrived at Tripoli airport at 6.9 pm on 24 February 2011 and departed at 1.40 am 25 February 2011.

FCO charter flight 3 arrived at Tripoli airport at 10.49 pm on 24 February 2011 and departed at 3.13 am on 25 February 2011.

FCO charter flight 4 arrived at Tripoli airport at 11.55 pm on 24 February 2011 and departed at 4.35 am on 25 February 2011.

FCO charter flight 5 arrived at Tripoli airport at 8.35 am on 25 February 2011 and departed at 4.45 pm on 25 February 2011.

FCO charter flight 6 arrived at Tripoli airport at 1.7 pm on 26 February and departed at 7.30 pm on 26 February 2011.

In addition, a flight originally chartered by another company but used by the FCO to evacuate British nationals arrived at Tripoli airport at 5.53 pm on 23 February 2011 and departed at 3.40 am on 24 February 2011.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any *(a)* British and *(b)* non-British citizens who were evacuated by the Royal Navy from Libya paid for their passage. [46705]

**Alistair Burt:** All British citizens and non-British citizens who were evacuated from Libya on Royal Navy ships did so without charge. In an evacuation, the Government cover the cost of transport out of the affected country if there are no commercial means available.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how many *(a)* British and *(b)* non-British nationals who used the flights from Libya chartered by his Department have not paid for those flights. [46706]

(2) what charge his Department made to each *(a)* British and *(b)* non-British national who was evacuated from Libya on aeroplanes chartered by his Department. [46707]

**Alistair Burt:** I refer my hon. Friend to my response to him of 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1146W.

### Libya: Overseas Aid

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to provide assistance to areas of Libya no longer under the control of the Libyan government. [44676]

**Alistair Burt:** Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers and officials are in close touch with the Interim Transitional National Council based in Benghazi and other anti-regime figures. This engagement is vital to gain a better understanding of the political, military and humanitarian situation in the country, in order to underpin our response to the crisis.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs spoke by telephone to Mahmoud Jabril, Special Envoy of the Interim Transitional National Council, on 10 March 2011 confirming our co-operative dialogue and that we are working on a full range of responses to the crisis.

We, the UN and EU are active in providing humanitarian support as the situation on the ground requires. We stand ready to respond to further requests from the Libyan people, including through rapid deployment of experts from our Civilian Stabilisation Group, to assist in areas such as stabilisation, governance and the rule of law.

### Libya: Politics and Government

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* British and *(b)* non-British nationals have been evacuated by his Department from Libya to date. [44889]

**Alistair Burt** *[holding answer 9 March 2011]:* My written ministerial statement of 3 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 35-36WS on Libya: Consular Response provided details of the number of British and other nationalities who have been evacuated from Libya on UK-provided flights and ships.

HMS Cumberland has since made a further voyage to Libya and evacuated another 10 UK citizens and 19 EU and other citizens from Benghazi on 6 March 2011.

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the number of UK nationals in Libya. [45397]

**Alistair Burt:** We are aware of approximately 220 British nationals still in Libya. The majority are long-term residents. Many are dual nationals or spouses of Libyan nationals. To date, they have chosen to remain in Libya. As the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), said in his statement on 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-45, we continue to provide assistance and information for those who wish to leave.

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government has taken at the United Nations in respect of the use of force against civilians by the Government of Libya. [46413]

**Alistair Burt:** As the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), continues to make clear, we are appalled by the levels of violence in Libya. We call on Colonel Gaddafi to leave and for his regime to end the violence against their own people. On 28 February 2011, the United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution, drafted by the UK, which demanded an immediate end to the violence and killing of protestors and referred Libya's current leaders to the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. The resolution also imposed a travel ban, asset freeze and arms embargo on the Libyan regime.

The UK also played an important role in Libya's suspension from the UN Human Rights Council on 1 March 2011, a clear statement that the international community is united in its determination to hold the regime to account for the human rights abuses it has committed. The International Criminal Court Prosecutor announced the opening of his investigation on 3 March 2011.

We continue to work closely with partners, including the UN, the EU and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, to develop contingency plans to allow the international community to respond quickly and effectively, as required to the developing situation on the ground in Libya.

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will assess the risks of weapons seized from the Libyan armed forces being used in conflicts outside of Libya. [46417]

**Alistair Burt:** In situations of internal conflict, there is always some risk that weapons could be diverted from the armed forces to groups both within and outside the country. It is difficult to assess the nature of that risk in Libya currently. We continue to monitor the situation closely, including with our international partners.

### Myanmar: Politics and Government

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Myanmar. [46608]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** We remain deeply concerned by the regime's continued refusal to engage in dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi and other democratic opposition and ethnic groups. The Government does not believe that the near completion of the regime's roadmap process represents progress. The regime is clearly intent on maintaining power. This is shown by the continued imprisonment of over 2000 prisoners of conscience, the deeply flawed constitution, manipulation of the electoral process, the rejection of the National League for Democracy's appeal against dissolution, and highly restrictive controls on freedom of expression. Human rights abuses also continue unabated, with ongoing arbitrary arrests and persistent corruption. Many civilians, particularly in ethnic areas, face regular threats of persecution, injustice and violence. We strongly urge the junta to work with the UN and all of Burma's political groups towards national reconciliation and a just political settlement.

### Riot Control Weapons

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will investigate whether weapons and riot control equipment sold by UK companies have been used against protesters in *(a)* Tunisia, *(b)* Libya and *(c)* Egypt. [45622]

**Alistair Burt:** We have raised concerns with the Governments of Tunisia and Egypt about the possibility that weapons and riot control equipment sold by the UK were used during the recent unrest, although there is no evidence as yet to suggest this was the case. We are aware of claims by Amnesty and various media that equipment sold by the UK has been used to suppress protestors and demonstrators in Libya. While operations at our embassy in Tripoli are suspended, it is not possible to confirm these claims.

In the cases of Tunisia and Egypt, the Government revoked a number of licenses where there was a risk that arms sold by the UK may be used to breach human rights or aggravate internal tensions. In the case of Libya, the Government took the decision to revoke all export licences for equipment that could be used in internal repression and will refuse all future applications for military and security related goods and technology for the Gaddafi regime.

### Thailand: Politics and Government

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Thailand. [46609]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** Prime Minister Abhisit made clear his intention to call a general election in June. However, tensions between the anti-government and nationalist groups continue. Whilst there have been no serious outbreaks of violence since the unrest of March-May 2010, demonstrations by both anti-government (Red Shirt) and nationalist (Yellow Shirt) groups continue in central Bangkok. The Red Shirts continue to demonstrate twice a month to mark the violent incidents that took place in April and May last year. Since January this year, the "Yellow Shirt" People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) and the Thai Patriot Network have been demonstrating outside Government House over the Government's handling of the ongoing Thai/Cambodia border dispute. These protests have been peaceful, but there is a still a risk they could escalate and lead to outbreaks of violence.

The UK continues to urge the Thai Government to take forward the national reconciliation process as a matter of priority.

### Tibet: Politics and Government

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions issues relating to Tibet have been raised with the Government of China by staff of his Department in the last 12 months. [46959]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officials have regularly raised the issue of Tibet with the Government of China.

During 2010 FCO staff visited the Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR), where they had meetings with local officials and raised issues relating to China's treatment of its ethnic minorities, and Tibetan areas of Sichuan and Gansu provinces. Staff have pressed for better access to the TAR by diplomats and foreign journalists. In the last 12 months FCO staff have been consistent in signalling the UK's hopes for a positive outcome to talks with the Dalai Lama. We have consistently expressed concern over the numbers of Tibetans in detention in TAR, Sichuan, Gansu and Qinghai in relation to the March 2008 unrest and the related death sentences. Officials have also expressed concern over cultural rights and religious freedom in Tibet. In 2011 FCO officials used the 19th round of the UK-China human rights dialogue to raise our concerns regarding the rights and freedoms of the Tibetan people, and urged China to renew its dialogue with the Dalai Lama.

We continue to monitor the situation in Tibet carefully.

### United Nations

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on United Nations reform. [46710]

**Mr Bellingham:** We are a strong supporter of UN reform, promoting a more efficient and effective use of resources and improved working methods. We encourage more co-ordination across the UN system and better value for the money contributed by member states. I discussed UN reform issues recently with the UN Secretary-General and President of the UN General Assembly on a visit to New York on 9-11 March 2011.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the United Nations; and if he will make a statement. [46829]

**Mr Bellingham:** The UK is a long-standing, committed and proactive member of the UN. We are the fourth largest contributor to the UN regular budget and, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, we play a leading role in international peace and security issues. We will continue to work closely with international partners on these issues through the UN framework.

### Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Zimbabwe. [46610]

**Mr Bellingham:** We are deeply concerned by the recent increase in politically motivated intimidation and violence in Zimbabwe, in contravention of the spirit of the Global Political Agreement. In particular, we condemn the arrest and treatment in detention of 45 people for watching publicly available footage of events in North Africa, and the arrest of the Minister of Energy on spurious charges. We have made our views known to the Government of Zimbabwe. We urge all parties, including the security forces and the judiciary, to discharge their duties in an impartial manner.

Even though there has been considerable economic progress in Zimbabwe since the formation of the Inclusive Government in 2008, it has not been matched by equivalent political reform. It is clear that there is still a long way to go before the country can be considered stable and democratic. A number of key provisions of the Global Political Agreement remain unimplemented. And the general conditions necessary for free and fair elections have yet to be established.

We continue to engage with our international partners, including Southern African Development Community and South Africa, in support of their work on preparing a roadmap to elections.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Prisoners

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what definition of a serious offence will be used in connection with the enfranchisement of prisoners. [40139]

**Mr Harper:** The Government are considering the next steps on prisoner voting rights in view of the strength of feeling on this issue in the UK, as demonstrated by the recent debates in Parliament. The Government have sought to refer the "Greens and MT" judgment against the UK to the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights. If the Grand Chamber agrees to the referral they will look again at the case and issue their own judgment.

The Government will set out their intended approach in due course.

### Protection of Freedoms Bill

**Mr Knight:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister at what time on 15 February 2011 *(a)* the written ministerial statement on the Protection of Freedoms Bill: Public Reading Stage was delivered to the House and *(b)* the embargo was lifted on the press release issued on 14 February 2011 relating to the launch of the Public Reading Stage website. [46151]

**Sir George Young:** I have been asked to reply.

The written ministerial statement was tabled as part of the ongoing process for keeping the House informed, and was issued at the normal time. This was preceded by the lifting of the embargo on the press notice at one minute past midnight on the morning of the 15 February. The decision to introduce the pilot of a 'public reading stage' of Bills was included in the coalition agreement and further notified to the House during oral questions on 21 June 2010, *Official Report,* column 512W, in response to written parliamentary questions, including on 14 June 2010, *Official Report,* columns 270-71W, and in correspondence with the Procedure Committee in August 2010. I will have further discussions on the development of the public reading stage of Bills following the pilot of the public reading stage of the Protection of Freedoms Bill.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Childbirth

**Brandon Lewis:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many birth certificates have been issued for babies born at under 21 weeks of pregnancy in each year from 2005 to 2010; [46721]

(2) how many death certificates have been issued for babies born at under 21 weeks of pregnancy in each year from 2005 to 2010. [46722]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking i) how many birth certificates have been issued for babies born at under 21 weeks of pregnancy in each year from 2005 to 2010 (46721) and ii) how many death certificates have been issued for babies born at under 21 weeks of pregnancy in each year from 2005 to 2010 (46722).

Information on gestational age (length of pregnancy) is not routinely recorded at the registration of live births. However, ONS links birth registrations to NHS birth notifications data to publish figures by gestational age. These figures are less timely than statistics based on birth registrations only. Figures are not reported for individual weeks of gestation but grouped at 'under 22 weeks', divided according to whether the birthweight is consistent for the baby's gestational age (under 1,000g) or inconsistent (1,000g or over). In the latter case, there may have been an error in the recording of either gestational age or birthweight.

Table 1 below provides the numbers of (i) live births and (ii) infant deaths for babies with a reported gestational age of 22 weeks or less for 2005-2008, the most recent period for which figures are available.

Published statistics on births and infant deaths by gestational age for England and Wales, 2007-2008 are available on the Office for National Statistics website:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=15309

Figures for 2006 are available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_health/HSQ42.pdf

(Pages 78-87)

Figures for 2005 are available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_health/HSQ35.pdf

(Pages 13-27)

*Table 1: Live births and infant deaths for babies born with a gestational age of less than 22 weeks, 2005-08, England and Wales*

| | | | | *Number* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
| *Under 22 weeks gestational age and birthweight <1,000g:* | | | | |
| Live births | 212 | 196 | 143 | 225 |
| Infant deaths | 209 | 193 | 139 | 219 |
| *Low gestational age inconsistent with birthweight[1]:* | | | | |
| Live births | 100 | 102 | 133 | 94 |
| Infant deaths | 27 | 38 | 72 | 26 |

[1] Under 22 weeks gestational age and birthweight 1,000g or over

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### Departmental Food

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will estimate the proportion of the seafood procured for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible that (i) was on the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid and (ii) complied with sustainability standards indicated by inclusion in either the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat or by the list of fish species certified by the Marine Stewardship Council in (A) 2010 and (B) 2011 to date. [45044]

**Mr Maude:** The Cabinet Office does not procure any seafood that is on the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid. All fish procured complies with sustainability standards indicated by inclusion in either the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat or by the list of fish species certified by the Marine Stewardship Council in (A) 2010 and (B) 2011 to date.

### Departmental Internet

**Tessa Jowell:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the cost of setting up and administering the Your Freedom website has been to date. [46325]

**Mr Maude:** The total cost to date for the build of the Your Freedom website was £19,853.98 excluding VAT.

### Departmental Legal Costs

**Mr Nuttall:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip, Northwood of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 409W, on public relations, whether any funds from the public purse were spent on legal fees in relation to the incident involving Mr Damian McBride, the Red Rag website and associated emails. [46306]

**Mr Maude** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* This Government are not accountable for the decisions and actions of the previous Government.

### Regulation

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what regulations his Department revoked between 2 February 2011 and 28 February 2011. [46017]

**Mr Maude** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Wokingham (Mr Redwood) on 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 140W. The position in the Cabinet Office has not changed since then.

### Departmental Security

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office for what reasons persons not employed by Government departments or agencies are issued with passes entitling them to enter his Department's premises. [43213]

**Mr Maude:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 8 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 202W.

### Departmental: ICT

**Mr Blunkett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he plans to publish the Government's ICT strategy. [46214]

**Mr Maude:** The Government's ICT strategy will be published in spring this year.

### Departmental: Procurement

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what guidance his Department provides to other Government Departments on the minimum monetary value for a procurement project for which a senior responsible owner is required. [45663]

**Mr Maude** *[holding answer 10 March 2011]:* There is no minimum monetary value for a procurement project for which a senior responsible owner is required. Cabinet Office has published guidance stating that every project must have a senior responsible owner appointed, with personal accountability and overall responsibility for the delivery of a successful outcome.

The Cabinet Office guidance is available at

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/
introduction_to_projects__controlled_start-up.asp

Cabinet Office has also published guidance on the role of a SRO, including purpose; specific responsibilities; characteristics; and key questions. This is available at:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/
User_roles_in_the_toolkit_senior_responsible_owner.asp

Treasury has published guidance on project governance for public sector projects. This guidance aims to help public sector bodies put in place and maintain the structures and forums that are needed for effective project governance, at all stages in the project lifecycle. This includes information on the role of senior responsible owners.

The guidance is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/
ppp_projectgovernanceguidance231107.pdf

### Government Efficiency Review

**Tessa Jowell:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which of the recommendations from Sir Philip Green's Efficiency Review have been implemented to date. [46426]

**Mr Maude:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by my noble Friend Lord Taylor of Holbeach on 20 December 2010, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA265. Sir Philip's recommendations have been incorporated into ongoing programmes within the Efficiency and Reform Group.

### Public Sector: Industrial Disputes

**Teresa Pearce:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent discussions his Department has had with *(a)* employment agencies and *(b)* other private sector contractors on contingency plans to operate services in the event of industrial action by public sector workers. [45468]

**Mr Maude** *[holding answer 10 March 2011]:* The Cabinet Office has not held any recent discussions with either employment agencies or other private sector contractors on contingency plans to operate services in the event of industrial action by public sector workers.

**Teresa Pearce:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what contingency plans his Department is developing to operate services in the event of industrial action by public sector workers; how many staff of his Department are engaged in such planning; and what the name is of each unit or working group established for this purpose. [45469]

**Mr Maude** *[holding answer 10 March 2011]:* Individual organisations, be they Government Departments or part of the critical national infrastructure, are responsible for ensuring that they have in place effective contingency plans to respond to a wide range of disruptive challenges, including the risk of industrial action. The Civil Contingencies Secretariat in the Cabinet Office works with Departments to ensure robust plans are in place to mitigate the risk of significant disruption to essential services.

## TREASURY

### Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what legal advice he has received on the introduction of an *(a)* voluntary and *(b)* mandatory minimum price for alcohol. [46926]

**Justine Greening:** Alcohol pricing policy is led by the Home Office. Treasury Ministers and officials are in regular contact with the Home Office about a range of alcohol-related issues.

### Bank Services: Standards

**David Morris:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the banking industry on reducing the time taken to clear cheques into bank accounts. [46950]

**Mr Hoban:** Changes to improve cheque clearing times were introduced in November 2007. As a result, a payee starts earning interest two working days after depositing a cheque; can withdraw funds against the cheque four working days after paying it in, or six working days after paying it into a savings account; and can be sure that a cheque will not bounce six working days after it has been deposited, unless the customer or business was a knowing party to fraud.

Many banks offer a faster cheque presentation service at extra cost.

### Banks: Pay

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the merits of implementing the recommendation made by the Walker Review of corporate governance of the UK banking industry on the compulsory disclosure by financial institutions based in the UK of the number of their employees who earn more than £1 million per annum. [29559]

**Mr Hoban:** The Government are committed to a robust remuneration disclosure regime and the principles set out in Sir David Walker's report.

The Chancellor has called on counterparts in the European Union to urgently consider proposals to strengthen remuneration disclosure. While there is a range of views among the international community, there is support for an internationally consistent approach to remuneration disclosure.

As a result of the Government's recent discussions, the four largest UK banks have committed to world-leading pay disclosure arrangements. When taken together with the Financial Services Authority's sector-wide regime, which includes implementation of the capital requirements directive, these will make the UK's disclosure arrangements the toughest of any major financial centre.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on *(a)* salaries and *(b)* pension entitlements for special advisers in the financial year 2010-11 to date. [46569]

**Justine Greening:** For the period 1 April 2010 to 31 January 2011, £315,304 was paid in salaries (including earnings related national insurance contributions) and £51,628 in pension contributions to special advisers employed by both the current and previous Administration.

### Departmental Procurement

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many procurement projects with a monetary value greater than *(a)* £10 million, *(b)* £50 million and *(c)* £100 million (i) his Department and (ii) each non-departmental public body and agency for which he is responsible was engaged upon in the latest period for which figures are available; [45688]

(2) which procurement projects engaged upon by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental public body and agency for which he is responsible had a designated senior responsible owner in the latest period for which figures are available; and on what date each officer was appointed in each such case. [45689]

**Justine Greening:** In financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11 to date, HM Treasury Group have engaged or are currently engaged in three projects with a procurement element (including VAT) valued at greater than £10 million. There are no projects expected to exceed either £50 million or £100 million.

It is standard HM Treasury Group practice for all major projects to be allocated a designated Senior Responsible Owner. Data for all projects for the period requested can be obtained only at a disproportionate cost. However, the three projects referenced above all have SROs who were appointed on the date of project initiation.

### Regulation

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what regulations his Department introduced between 9 and 28 February 2011. [47044]

**Justine Greening:** Between 9 February and 28 February 2011, my Department introduced the one statutory instrument: the Libya (Financial Sanctions) Order (SI 2011/548).

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what regulations his Department revoked between 9 and 28 February 2011. [47059]

**Justine Greening:** Between 9 and 28 February 2011, the Treasury did not revoke any statutory instruments.

### EU Budget

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the future of the UK rebate from the EU budget; [46857]

(2) what reports he has received on proposals for the future of the UK rebate from the EU budget made by the Danish Government; and if he will make a statement. [46858]

**Justine Greening:** The Chancellor of the Exchequer has discussions with EU counterparts on a variety of issues on a regular basis. Currently there is no formal proposal for the future of the EU financing system including the UK abatement. Formal negotiations on the next Financial Framework (2014-20) will not start until the Commission issues its proposal, expected in June2011.

However, the UK Government have made it clear from the beginning that the UK abatement is not up for negotiation and remains fully justified due to continuing expenditure distortions in EU budget.

## Excise Duties: Beer

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what inflation rate his Department assumed in calculating the additional revenue forecast from the beer duty escalator for 2011-12; and what change would be required to the rate of beer duty to raise the same tax revenue using his most recent forecast of inflation. [46432]

**Justine Greening:** The Office of Budget Responsibility's autumn forecast assumed RPI of 3.5% in 2011-12, and the latest outturn for January 2011 is 5.1%. A new inflation forecast for 2011-12, taking into account latest out-turn data, will be published by OBR at the Budget (23 March).

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which alcoholic attracts the lowest rate of duty per unit; and whether his Department has made an estimate of how much the duty on spirits would need to change to cost the same price per unit as that for beer. [46768]

**Justine Greening:** Duties on beer and spirits are charged in direct proportion to their alcohol content: duty on beer is currently equivalent to 17p per unit of alcohol and duty on spirits is 24p per unit. The final price of a product and therefore the cost per unit of alcohol depends on a number of factors and is a commercial decision for retailers.

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent assessment he has made of the contribution of the brewing and pub sector to economic growth; [46320]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of the *(a)* rate of and *(b)* amount of revenue raised through beer duty on the level of beer consumption in the last three years; [46431]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of the effects of the rate of beer duty on levels of *(a)* economic activity, *(b)* tourism and *(c)* economic growth; and if he will make a statement; [46433]

(4) what assessment his Department has made of the effects of *(a)* the application of the beer duty escalator and *(b)* the increase in the rate of value added tax in January 2011 on levels of employment in the beer and pub sector; [46434]

(5) what assessment his Department has made of the effects of the beer duty escalator on *(a)* on-trade beer sales, *(b)* off-trade beer sales, *(c)* levels of employment, *(d)* local economies and *(e)* tax revenues in (i) the last three years and (ii) 2011-12; [46435]

(6) what assessment he has made of the effect of implementation of the planned beer duty escalator on the level of employment in *(a)* each region, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales, *(d)* Northern Ireland and *(e)* the UK. [46436]

**Justine Greening:** The brewing and pub industry represent important local businesses but are a comparatively small part of the total economy. This means that even large changes in the size of the industry have a limited impact on overall economic growth.

Although alcohol consumption is not directly measured, for annual data clearances are a good proxy. Alcohol rates, receipts and clearances are published by HM Revenue and Customs and are available online at

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bullAlcohol

| | *Clearances (Thousand hl)* | *Revenue (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 52,920 | 3,067 |
| 2008-09 | 49,723 | 3,127 |
| 2009-10 | 46,894 | 3,182 |

| *Date of change* | *Beer duty rate (£ per hectolitre per 1% ABV)* |
|---|---|
| 26 March 2007 | 13.71 |
| 17 March 2008 | 14.96 |
| 1 December 2008 | 16.15 |
| 23 April 2009 | 16.47 |
| 29 March 2010 | 17.32 |

*Source:*
HMRC Alcohol Bulletin March 2011

From changes in duty we can estimate the price effects and, from there, the overall demand effects. HMRC estimate that a 1% increase in prices, results in a 0.77% decrease in sales in the on trade and a 1.11% reduction in sales in the off trade. These results are published in the following technical paper:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/alcohol-consumption-uk.pdf

The Office for National Statistics publishes regular expenditure statistics in Consumer Trends, available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=242

The following table shows beer expenditure in off and on licensed premises at current prices.

*Expenditure on beer (£ million) at current prices*

| | *Off trade* | *On trade* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 3,282 | 15,130 |
| 2008-09 | 3,464 | 14,404 |
| 2009-10 | 3,744 | 12,999 |

*Source:*
ONS Consumer Trends Q3 2010

The British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA) publish statistics on employment in the manufacture of beer and malt and in licensed retailing and related industries in Great Britain.

| | Employees (Thousand) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| Manufacture of beer and malt | 15.7 | 15.6 | — |
| Total employed in hotels, restaurants, pubs and clubs | 1,561 | 1,557 | 1,503 |

*Source:*
BBPA Statistical Handbook 2010

The impacts of individual measures or effects on specific sectors, such as tourism, are not studied in isolation. Instead, as part of the Budget process macroeconomic effects, such as economic growth and employment are considered, including regional variations, for the whole package of economic measures. The total impact of all Budget measures is also included in the OBR's economic forecast.

### Financial Services: Pay

**Ed Balls:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what details *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department had with their European counterparts on securing agreement on transparency of executive pay in the financial services sector between 12 May 2010 and 30 January 2011; and what the (i) attendance list and (ii) agenda was of each such meeting. [39516]

**Mr Hoban** *[holding answer 10 February 2011]:* As was the case with the previous Government, Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Remuneration disclosure has been discussed as part of the Government's dialogue with other jurisdictions, and the Chancellor has called on counterparts in the European Union to consider urgently proposals to strengthen remuneration disclosure. While there is a range of views among the international community, there is support for an internationally consistent approach to remuneration disclosure.

As a result of the Government's recent discussions, the four largest UK banks have committed that the total remuneration paid in 2010 will be lower than it was in 2009, and lower than it would have been otherwise. The Remuneration Committee Chair of each bank will write to the FSA to confirm that the commitment has been met. These banks have also committed to world-leading pay disclosure arrangements which, when taken together with the FSA's sector wide regime, make the UK's disclosure arrangements the toughest of any major financial centre. The Government expect that these commitments will be met.

**Ed Balls:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress he has made on discussions with his European counterparts on increasing transparency in executive pay in the financial services sector. [39517]

**Mr Hoban** *[holding answer 10 February 2011]:* Remuneration disclosure has been discussed as part of the Government's dialogue with other jurisdictions and we continue to consider proposals to strengthen remuneration disclosure, including of executive pay in the financial services sector.

The Chancellor has called on counterparts in the European Union to urgently consider proposals to strengthen remuneration disclosure. While there is a range of views among the international community, there is support for an internationally consistent approach to remuneration disclosure.

As a result of the Government's recent discussions, the four largest UK banks have committed that the total remuneration paid in 2010 will be lower than it was in 2009, and lower than it would have been otherwise. The Remuneration Committee Chair of each bank will write to the FSA to confirm that the commitment has been met. These banks have also committed to world-leading pay disclosure arrangements which, when taken together with the FSA's sector wide regime, make the UK's disclosure arrangements the toughest of any major financial centre. The Government expect that these commitments will be met.

### Housing: Construction

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many self-build home projects there were in *(a)* Brighton and Hove, *(b)* Sussex and *(c)* nationally in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010. [47089]

**Grant Shapps:** I have been asked to reply.

Information on how many self build projects are built each year is limited. The best available information comes from VAT refund claims held by HMRC for new housing completions (both new-build and conversions) and relate to the UK as a whole, although this information does not cover all self build development. In 2008 there were some 10,480 claims accepted and paid to claimants. In 2009 the figure was 9,550 and in 2010 this reduced to 7,080.

No data are available at more detailed geographic levels.

### Individual Savings Accounts: Children

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what progress he has made on the facilitation of a voluntary scheme for financial institutions and the third sector to contribute to the junior ISAs of children in care; [46363]

(2) on what date he expects the junior ISA to be operational; [46364]

(3) which organisations officials in his Department have met to discuss the junior ISA since 1 January 2011; [46365]

(4) how many expressions of interest in the junior ISA had been received via the tax free junior ISA website at 9 March 2011; [46366]

(5) how many unique visitors have visited the tax-free junior ISA website since its inception. [46367]

**Mr Hoban:** Junior ISAs are expected to be available from autumn 2011. Draft regulations will be published for comment shortly, which will include a proposed date for the legislation to have effect.

Treasury officials have met with a large number of organisations—including potential providers and their representative bodies; think tanks; academics and other experts; and other Government Departments—to discuss junior ISAs since 1 January 2011. Officials will continue to consult with interested parties.

These meetings have included discussion of the potential of a voluntary scheme for financial institutions and charities to contribute to the junior ISAs of looked after children, and officials intend to meet further stakeholders shortly. We will continue to consider this carefully.

The Government have not established any website for tax-free junior ISAs, although information about junior ISAs is available on the Direct.gov website.

### Insurance: Females

**Jack Lopresti:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effect on UK law of the recent European Court of Justice ruling on gender discrimination in *(a)* insurance payments and *(b)* annuities; and whether he plans to take steps to mitigate any potentially adverse effects. [46324]

**Mr Hoban:** The Government are disappointed by this judgment. We made very clear our concerns about any move to prevent the use of gender as a risk factor in the pricing of insurance policies.

The judgment allows a transitional period for insurance companies to introduce different models for assessing risk. We will use this period to decide how best to ensure that our national law is in lie with the ruling, and therefore provide certainty for insurers and consumers.

In the meantime it is for individual insurers to decide what steps they take to comply with the ruling.

The Government will continue to work closely with the Financial Services Authority and Association of British Insurers in order to ensure that the negative impacts for customers and industry are reduced as far as possible.

### Members: Correspondence

**Amber Rudd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Hastings and Rye of 23 September 2010, Ref: AR/LS/195, and 26 November 2010, Ref: AR/LS/635 on behalf of a constituent, Mr Robert Wakeford. [47269]

**Danny Alexander:** I replied to my hon. Friend on 11 March 2011.

### Rented Housing: Selby

**Nigel Adams:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to reverse the increase in rental prices in the Selby District Council area. [46723]

**Grant Shapps:** I have been asked to reply.

The policy on setting the annual local authority guideline rent increase was introduced by the last Government with the aim of aligning council housing and housing association rents. Reducing social rents would be unsustainable for local authorities and the Exchequer, particularly given the current financial constraints due to the need to reduce the budget deficit inherited from the last Government.

### Scotland: Finance

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date he notified the Scottish Government of the proposed end of end-year flexibility. [47094]

**Danny Alexander:** The end-year flexibility scheme was discussed at the Finance Ministers' Quadrilateral meeting on 15 September 2010 and the arrangements for 2011-12 were confirmed in the spending review on 20 October 2010.

### Third Sector

**Tessa Jowell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has plans to align legislation governing co-operatives, community benefit societies and credit unions with that governing other corporate bodies. [46424]

**Mr Hoban:** The Government are undertaking a number of measures that will modernise the legislative framework for mutuals and better align it with legislation applying to other corporate bodies.

The Legislative Reform (Industrial and Provident Societies and Credit Unions) Order will update legislation to enable mutuals to expand and grow and will be re-laid in Parliament shortly.

The Government will also commence clauses in the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies and Credit Unions Act which apply various elements of company law to co-operatives.

The Government have consulted on enabling the greater use of electronic communications by mutuals and the "Electronic Communications in the Mutual Sector" Order will be laid shortly. This will increase the options available to mutuals for engaging with their members and with statutory bodies, thereby bringing the legislation up to date and putting mutuals on a more equal footing with plcs.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Children: Day Care

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what transitional protection arrangements will be put in place for parents in receipt of assistance with child care costs at the point at which universal credit is introduced. [44386]

**Chris Grayling:** Support for child care costs will be provided by an additional element as part of universal credit. We will invest at least the same amount of money in child care as in the current system, and we will aim to provide some support for those making their first moves into work, so that the support available is not restricted to those working more than 16 hours.

We have agreed a package of transitional protection which will ensure that families do not lose money as a direct result of moving on to universal credit where their circumstances remain the same.

## Community Care Grants

**Mr Ward:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will consider amending the eligibility criteria for community care grants to include people entitled to contributory benefits. [47167]

**Steve Webb:** The Government have no plans to extend the qualifying criteria for Community Care Grants. They are payable from a limited budget and are targeted at the most vulnerable customers in receipt of income-related benefits.

Subject to the successful passage of the legislation, we are taking powers in the Welfare Reform Bill to abolish the discretionary Social Fund. Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans for general living expenses will be replaced with new, local provision of assistance from April 2013 and will be the responsibility of local authorities in England and the devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales. It will be up to the new local providers to determine eligibility criteria for the local schemes.

## Crisis Loans

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many social fund crisis loans were paid in each parliamentary constituency in the last 12 months. [45526]

**Steve Webb:** The available information is given in the following table:

| *Jobcentre Plus Social Fund budget area by region* | *Number of initial awards between March 2010 and February 2011* |
|---|---|
| *East of England* | |
| Essex | 63,250 |
| Norwich Benefit Delivery Centre | 131,890 |
| *East Midlands* | |
| East Midlands North | 66,660 |
| South East Midlands | 85,270 |
| *London* | |
| Central and East London | 66,670 |
| London South | 109,890 |
| North and North East London | 64,160 |
| West London | 57,800 |
| *North East* | |
| Northumbria | 53,710 |
| South Tyne and Wear Valley | 69,100 |
| Tees Valley | 51,190 |
| *North West* | |
| Chorlton Benefit Delivery Centre | 316,210 |
| Greater Liverpool and Cheshire | 171,450 |
| *Scotland* | |
| Inverness Benefit Delivery Centre | 107,780 |
| Springburn Benefit Delivery Centre | 239,490 |
| *South East* | |
| Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Surrey | 96,220 |
| Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent and Sussex | 194,820 |
| *South West* | |
| South West Central | 149,330 |
| *Wales* | |
| Llanelli Benefit Delivery Centre | 47,550 |
| South East Wales | 97,050 |
| *West Midlands* | |
| West Midlands Social Fund | 220,440 |
| *Yorkshire and Humber* | |
| Bradford | 67,500 |
| Sheffield | 161,340 |
| Total Great Britain | 2,688,750 |

*Notes:*
1. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using official/National Statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as official/National Statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, it does not include applications which were processed clerically and have not yet been entered on to the Social Fund Computer System.
2. Information on Crisis Loan awards is not available by parliamentary constituency however information is available by Jobcentre Plus budget area and Government office region.
3. Numbers are for initial awards only and do not include awards made after review.
4. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
5. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

*Source:*
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many defaults there were in social fund crisis loans in the last 12 months. [45605]

**Steve Webb:** The number of crisis loan write-offs in the 2009-10 financial year was 6,649.

Data have been included up to and including 2009-10, the latest year for which the audited social fund account is available.

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to allow remote telephone applications to the social fund crisis loan scheme. [45644]

**Steve Webb:** Crisis loan applications for living expenses are already taken by telephone via a freephone number. Vulnerable customers who are unable or unwilling to make a telephone application can apply in writing.

Customers making their third or subsequent application for a crisis loan for living expenses within a 12 month period may be required to attend a face to face interview at the Jobcentre.

Crisis loan applications for needs other than living expenses are usually made in writing.

### Crisis Loans: Disability

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many social fund crisis loans were made to *(a)* individuals registered as disabled, *(b)* individuals over the pension age and *(c)* lone parent households in the last 12 months. [45527]

**Steve Webb:** The available information is provided as follows:

| *Client group* | *Number of initial awards March 2010 to February 2011 in Great Britain* |
|---|---|
| Disabled | 443,410 |
| Lone parents | 287,580 |
| Others | 233,990 |
| Pensioners | 17,320 |
| Unemployed | 1,706,450 |
| All initial awards | 2,688,750 |

*Notes:*
1. The information provided is management information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National Statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, it does not include applications which were processed clerically and have not yet been entered on to the social fund computer system.
2. Breakdowns of social fund crisis loan awards are not available in the categories requested however it is possible to break the awards down into client groups definitions of these client groups are given as follows.
Pensioners—applicant or partner aged 60 or over with pension credit, applicant or partner aged 60 or over in receipt of state retirement pension. Includes also where applicant is under 60 and partner is: 60 or over with income support (IS) pensioner premium, 80 or over with IS higher pensioner premium, 60-79, disabled with IS higher pensioner premium.
Unemployed—includes anyone unemployed or with training allowance.
Disabled—is not people registered disabled however it includes people in receipt of employment and support allowance, applicant or partner aged under 60 with IS disability premium, lone parent with IS disability premium, family with IS disability premium, others with IS disability premium or in receipt of other benefit for incapacity or disablement.
Lone parents—person who has no partner and is in receipt of income support because they are responsible for a child.
Others—applicants involved in a trade dispute, in paid employment, not known or unallocated.
3. Numbers are for initial awards only and do not include awards made after review.
4. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
5. Figures may not sum due to rounding.
*Source:*
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

### Crisis Loans: Repayments

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time taken to repay a social fund crisis loan was in the latest period for which figures are available. [45608]

**Steve Webb:** The information requested is not available.

### Departmental Interpreters

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for which services provided by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies interpreters provide services in a language or languages other than English; how many interpreters are employed or subcontracted for each non-English language; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of interpretation costs incurred in the latest period for which figures are available. [42898]

**Chris Grayling:** The information requested is as follows:

*For DWP (including CMEC):*

(a) The following is a list of the languages that have been serviced:

Afar
Afrikaans
Akan
Albanian
Alcholi
Amharic
Arabic
Armenian
Asante
Assamese
Assyrian
Azerbaijani
Bahasa Indonesia
Basque
Belarussian
Bengali
Berber
British Sign Language
Bulgarian
Burmese
Cambodian
Cantonese
Catalan
Cebuano
Chaldean
Creole (Haitian)
Czech
Danish
Dinka
Dutch
Esperanto
Estonian
Ewe
Fanti
Farsi (Afghan)
Farsi (Persian)
Finnish
Flemish
French
French (Canada)
Fukienese
Fulani
Fuzhou
Ga

Gaelic (Scottish)
Georgian
German
Greek
Gujarati
Hakka
Hausa
Hebrew
Hindi
Hmong
Hungarian
Ibo
Icelandic
Ilocano
Italian
Japanese
Jula
Kachchi
Kashmiri
Kazakh
Kirghiz
Kongo
Korean
Krio
Kurdish (Kurmanji)
Kurdish (Sorani)
Kurdish Bandini
Laotian
Latvian
Lingala
Lithuanian
Lugandan
Macedonian
Malagasy
Malay
Malayalam
Maltese
Mandarin
Mandinka
Marathi
Mirpuri
Mongolian
Mwini
Ndebele
Nepali
Norwegian
Nuer
Oromo
Pahari
Pangasinan
Papiamento
Pashto
Pidgin, Nigerian
Polish
Portuguese
Pothwari
Pulaar
Punjabi
Romanian
Russian
Rwandan
Serbo-Croat
Shanghainese
Shona
Sinhala
Slovak
Slovene
Somali
Spanish
Sudanese
Swahili
Swati
Swedish
Sylheti
Tagalog
Taiwanese
Tajik
Tamil
Telugu
Thai
Thmne
Tibetan
Tigrinya
Tongan
Trukese
Tshiluba
Turkish
Turkmen
Twi
Ukrainian
Urdu
Uzbek
Vietnamese
Welsh
Wolof
Xhosa
Yiddish
Yoruba
Zulu.

(b) The total number of subcontracted interpreters available for use is approximately 2,200. Data are not held for the number of interpreters that are employed or subcontracted for each non-English language.

(c) Spend for face-to-face (including British Sign Language) and telephone interpreting for 2009-10 is £5.5 million and from April 2010 to January 2011 (the latest data) is £5.5million.

(d) DWP's written translation is currently provided through internal Welsh language teams supported by a contract with Corporate Document Services. We have 15 people working internally on Welsh language provision and 190 sub-contractors were used by Corporate Document Services during 2010. In the current financial year to date DWP has spent £355,364 on written translation.

*For associated public bodies:*

*Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board:*

In the 2009-10 financial year DLAAB spent:

BSL interpreter: £262.30

Speech to text reporter: £661.85.

In the 2010-11 financial year up to 14 December 2010, DLAAB spent:

BSL interpreter: £0.00

Speech to text reporter: £318.40.

*Health and Safety Executive:*

HSE does not employ interpreters. The number of interpreters contracted or sub-contracted by HSE for each non-English language for the period 1 April 2010 to 18 February 2011 was 61. The breakdown for the number of interpreters for each language is: Arabic (two), Bulgarian (one), Danish (one), Dari (one), Gujarati (four), Hindi (three), Lithuanian (two), Nepalese (one), Polish (24), Portuguese (three), Punjabi (four), Romanian (two), Russian (three), Slovak (three), Somali (one), Turkish (two) and Urdu (four).

The number of interpreters contracted or sub-contracted by HSE for each non-English language from 01 April 2009 to 31 March 2010 was 81. The breakdown for the number of interpreters for each language is: Albanian (two), Amharic (one), Arabic (three), Cantonese (one), Czech (one), Gujarati (one), Kurdish .(two), Latvian (two), Lithuanian (seven), Mandarin (one), Nepalese, (one) Polish (35), Portuguese (one), Punjabi (two), Romanian (three), Russian (nine), Shona (one), Slovak (one), Tamil (one), Turkish (four) and Urdu (two).

HSE also uses the services of a telephone interpreting company who have provided interpreters for the following additional languages: Croatian, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Korean and Spanish.

The cost to the public purse for this interpreting services was £35,935.76 from 1 April 2010 to 18 February 2011, and £40,268.50 from 01 April 2009 to 31 March 2010.

*Remploy:*

Remploy sub-contracted the following interpreters to provide services in a language or languages other than English:

| | *Number of interpreters* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 172 | 182,000 |
| 2010-11 (to 31 January2011) | 188 | 185,000 |

### Departmental Manpower

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in his Department were in the civil service redeployment pool on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many of these had been in the redeployment pool for more than six months at that date. [44349]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department does not currently have a redeployment pool. Any member of staff who becomes unavoidably surplus because of organisational or other changes is managed within the normal lines of management.

At the end of January there were 239 members of staff classified as surplus. This represents 0.2% of the total departmental staff. Of these surplus staff 139 had been classified as surplus for six months or more.

The Department aims to redeploy surplus staff, wherever feasible. This is not however always straightforward, particularly in cases where staff, in more junior grades, have become surplus due to changes in working practices, new business processes or as a result of site closures.

Staff who are surplus are provided with meaningful work until their position is resolved.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr McFadden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on photography since May 2010. [38537]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department for Work and Pensions has spent £4,219.16 since May 2010 on photography. £461.20 of these costs were incurred before May 2010 (by the previous administration), but invoiced in May 2010.

The Department is reviewing all expenditure with a view to driving out inefficiencies and delivering value for money for the taxpayer. All photography is now undertaken by DWP staff.

### Disability Living Allowance

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* higher and *(b)* lower rate of disability living allowance (i) is and (ii) was in each of the last five years. [45621]

**Maria Miller:** The information is in the following table.

*Rates of disability living allowance in last five years*

£

| *Component/rate:* | | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Care* | Highest | 62.25 | 64.50 | 67.00 | 70.35 | 71.40 |
| | Middle | 41.65 | 43.15 | 44.85 | 47.10 | 47.80 |
| | Lowest | 16.50 | 17.10 | 17.75 | 18.65 | 18.95 |
| *Mobility* | Higher | 43.45 | 45.00 | 46.75 | 49.10 | 49.85 |
| | Lower | 16.50 | 17.10 | 17.75 | 18.65 | 18.95 |

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Carshalton and Wallington constituency are receiving disability living allowance for an indefinite period in each combination of components. [45651]

**Maria Miller:** The information is in the following table.

*DLA in payment by care and mobility rate and award type in Carshalton and Wallington constituency—May 2010*

| | *Award type* | |
|---|---|---|
| *Rate/combination* | *Fixed* | *Indefinite* |
| All | 1,600 | 2,300 |
| Higher Care and Higher Mobility | [1]200 | [1]300 |
| Higher Care and Lower Mobility | [1]100 | — |
| Higher Care only | — | — |
| Middle Care and Higher Mobility | [1]100 | [1]400 |
| Middle Care and Lower Mobility | 700 | [1]300 |
| Middle Care only | [1]100 | — |
| Lower Care and Higher Mobility | [1]100 | [1]300 |

*DLA in payment by care and mobility rate and award type in Carshalton and Wallington constituency—May 2010*

| | Award type | |
|---|---|---|
| *Ratelcombination* | *Fixed* | *Indefinite* |
| Lower Care and Lower Mobility | [1]100 | [1]100 |
| Lower Care only | [1]100 | [1]200 |
| Higher Mobility only | — | [1]400 |
| Lower Mobility only | — | [1]200 |

[1] Figures are subject to a high degree of sampling error and should only be used as a guide.

*Notes*:

1. DLA figures are from 5% sample data. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

2. The preferred statistics on benefits are now derived from 100% data sources. However, the 5% sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100% data sources, in particular, more complete information on the disabling condition of DLA claimants. DWP recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5% sample data, or disabling condition (DLA) is required, the proportions derived should be scaled up to the overall 100% total for the benefit. This has been done for this request.

3. Caseload totals show the number of people in receipt of DLA, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

*Source*:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

## Disability Living Allowance: Appeals

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women in each age group had their application to receive (i) higher and (ii) lower rate disability living allowance rejected in each of the last five years; on what grounds such applications were rejected; how many applicants appealed against the decision; and how many such appeals were (A) upheld and (B) rejected. [45516]

**Maria Miller:** The information that is available is in the following table.

| | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Decisions made on DLA new claims | 492,000 | 423,000 | 456,000 | 467,000 | 481,000 |
| Rejected lay conditions not satisfied | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Rejected disability conditions not satisfied | 227,000 | 225,000 | 247,000 | 251,000 | 266,000 |
| DLA appeals decided by the Tribunal Service | 69,000 | 63,000 | 57,000 | 53,000 | 51,000 |
| Appeal upheld | 34,000 | 30,000 | 26,000 | 23,000 | 21,000 |
| Appeal rejected | 35,000 | 33,000 | 31,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 |

*Notes*:

1. We are not able break the data down by gender or age as requested. This is because our management information data on DLA new claims and appeal outcomes does not go down to that level of detail.

2. The grounds for rejection are broken down to those who did not satisfy the lay conditions, i.e. age or residence and presence, and those who satisfy the lay conditions but not the disability conditions.

3. The figure for DLA appeals in the table is the total number of DLA appeals decided and not just appeals against the disallowance of a new claim. We are unable to provide specific information about customers who dispute the rejection of their claim because our management information systems do not enable us to track cases from new claim to appeal.

4. Appeals upheld are where the tribunal allowed the appeal, varied the award or increased the award.

5. Appeals rejected are where the tribunal disallowed the appeal, maintained the award or reduced the award.

6. Numbers rounded to the nearest 1,000.

*Source*:

Department for Work and Pensions—RDA60209 and RDA60205 reports—DLA Management Information Statistics

## Disability Living Allowance: Bedford

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people normally resident in Bedford constituency were in receipt of *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* employment support allowance or incapacity benefit at the commencement of each financial year since 1997-98. [45404]

**Maria Miller:** The information requested is as follows:

*Disability living allowance—cases in payment caseload: parliamentary constituency of Bedford, May 1997 to May 2010*

| | *Cases* |
|---|---|
| May 1997 | 2,300 |
| May 1998 | 2,400 |
| May1999 | 2,400 |
| May 2000 | 2,700 |
| May 2001 | 3,200 |
| May 2002 | 3,530 |
| May 2003 | 3,740 |
| May 2004 | 3,840 |
| May 2005 | 3,940 |
| May 2006 | 3,980 |
| May 2007 | 4,030 |
| May 2008 | 4,250 |
| May 2009 | 4,360 |
| May 2010 | 4,490 |

*Notes*:

1. 5% sample figures are subject to sample variation and are rounded to the nearest 100, and 100% caseloads to the nearest 10.

2. 5% sample figures have been uprated using 5% proportions against 100% WPLS totals.

3. Constituencies used for May 2010 caseload data are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010. Prior to this, previous boundaries are used.

4. Caseloads for DLA show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

*Source*:

1997-2001 figures Information Directorate 5% samples.

2002 onwards DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data.

*Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance claimants: parliamentary constituency of Bedford, May 1997-May 2010*

| | Claimants |
|---|---|
| May 1997 | 3,700 |
| May 1998 | 3,500 |
| May 1999 | 3,500 |
| May 2000 | 3,810 |
| May 2001 | 3,870 |
| May 2002 | 3,850 |
| May 2003 | 3,940 |
| May 2004 | 4,080 |
| May 2005 | 4,250 |
| May 2006 | 4,150 |
| May 2007 | 4,110 |
| May 2008 | 4,130 |
| May 2009 | 3,700 |
| May 2010 | 3,370 |

*Employment support allowance claimants in Bedford parliamentary constituency*

| | Claimants |
|---|---|
| May 2009 | 500 |
| May 2010 | 850 |

*Notes:*
1. 5% sample figures are subject to sample variation and are rounded to the nearest 100, and 100% caseloads to the nearest 10.
2. 5% sample figures have been uprated using 5% proportions against 100% WPLS totals.
3. Constituencies used for May 2010 caseload data are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010. Prior to this, previous boundaries are used.
4. Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity or disability for new claims from 27 October 2008.

*Source:*
1997-1999 figures Information Directorate 5% samples
1999 onwards DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data

## Disability Living Allowance: Industrial Diseases

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claimed industrial injuries disability benefit for osteoarthritis in *(a)* Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency, *(b)* South Lanarkshire and (c) Scotland. [44894]

**Maria Miller:** Osteoarthritis of the knee in coal miners, and osteoarthritis of the hip in farmers are both included within the industrial injuries disablement benefit scheme.

We do not have information on the numbers of claims for either disease at constituency level, but can provide the numbers of claims for osteoarthritis of the knee in coal miners for Scotland at March 2010. The number of claims made by farmers for osteoarthritis of the hip is not currently available.

Since the addition of osteoarthritis of the knee to the list of prescribed industrial diseases on 13 July 2009, 3,720 miners claimed IIDB, with 1,090 miners receiving an award of, or an increase in, industrial injuries disablement benefit.

## Disability Living Allowance: Mobility

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are receiving disability living allowance for an indefinite period for *(a)* low-rate care, *(b)* low-rate care and low-rate mobility, *(c)* low-rate care and high-rate mobility, *(d)* middle-rate care, *(e)* middle-rate care and low-rate mobility, *(f)* high-rate care, *(g)* high-rate care and low-rate mobility and *(h)* high-rate care and high-rate mobility. [45650]

**Maria Miller:** The information is in the following table.

*DLA in payment by care and mobility rate and award type—May 2010*

| | Type of award | |
|---|---|---|
| *Rate/combination* | *Fixed* | *Indefinite* |
| All | 917,800 | 2,239,500 |
| Higher Care and Higher Mobility | 113,700 | 400,600 |
| Higher Care and Lower Mobility | 98,900 | 77,000 |
| Higher Care only | 30,200 | 12,900 |
| Middle Care and Higher Mobility | 82,200 | 377,500 |
| Middle Care and Lower Mobility | 225,200 | 250,800 |
| Middle Care only | 72,300 | 41,400 |
| Lower Care and Higher Mobility | 82,500 | 338,900 |
| Lower Care and Lower Mobility | 68,900 | 137,900 |
| Lower Care only | 69,300 | 180,300 |
| Higher Mobility only | 46,800 | 346,300 |
| Lower Mobility only | 27,800 | 75,800 |

*Notes:*
1. DLA figures are from 5% sample data. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. The preferred statistics on benefits are now derived from 100% data sources. However, the 5% sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100% data sources. In particular, more complete information on the disabling condition of DLA claimants. DWP recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5% sample data, or disabling condition (DLA) is required, the proportions derived should be scaled up to the overall 100% total for the benefit. This has been done here.
3. Caseload totals show the number of people in receipt of DLA , and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

*Source:*
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

## Employment and Support Allowance

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether claimants on contributory employment and support allowance in the Work Related Activity Group whose household income exceeds the means-testing threshold will be expected fulfil conditionality after 12 months of being in the Group. [45420]

**Chris Grayling:** After 12 months of being on contributory ESA, provided the claimants household income still exceeds the means testing threshold, claimants would move to "credits only" status and would therefore not be expected to fulfil conditionality.

## Employment: Deaths

**Katy Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the potential effects of planned reductions to the budget of the Health and Safety Executive on the number of deaths occurring in the workplace. [45401]

**Chris Grayling:** No assessment is planned. There are additional factors which influence the number of fatalities in the workplace most notably the behaviour of employers and employees.

## Housing Benefit

**Kate Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made an assessment of the geographical distribution of households which will be affected by the cap on the level of household benefits. [36427]

**Chris Grayling:** The information requested is not available as sample sizes are too small to yield reliable results for areas smaller than the overall impacts for Great Britain.

Analysis of the impact of the household cap on total benefit income was published in the Impact Assessment which accompanied the introduction of Welfare Reform Bill.

**Yvette Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were in receipt of (i) housing benefit, (ii) council tax benefit and (iii) attendance allowance on the most recent date for which figures are available. [47176]

**Steve Webb:** In response to part (i) and part (ii) the gender breakdown of those in receipt of housing benefit and council tax benefit are as follows:

*Table 1: Housing benefit and council tax benefit recipients by gender, Great Britain (November 2010)*

| | *Single male* | *Single female* | *All couples* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Housing benefit | 1,369,060 | 2,436,560 | 982,710 |
| Council tax benefit | 1,414,760 | 2,925,090 | 1,442,050 |

*Notes:*

1. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases. An extended payment is a payment that may be received for a further four weeks when they start working full time, work more hours or earn more money.
4. In November 2010, a small number of authorities reported a shift in the gender make up of the caseload. DWP are investigating this issue. However, the shift represents less than a 3% change.
5. In respect of claims from couples the gender variable happens to reflect the person who completed the form. So, including these would be misleading therefore we have not shown the gender split for couples.
7. Data does not include cases where gender is unknown or missing.

*Source:*

Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)

In response to part (iii) the gender breakdown of those in receipt of attendance allowance are as follows:

*Table 2: Attendance allowance recipients by gender, Great Britain (May 2010)*

| | *All male* | *All female* |
|---|---|---|
| Attendance allowance | 531,470 | 1,082,800 |

*Notes:*

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10, totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

*Source:*

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS)

## Housing Benefit: Income

**Kate Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the likely change in weekly income for a family with *(a)* three, *(b)* four, *(c)* five, *(d)* six, *(e)* seven and *(f)* eight children affected by the proposed cap on the level of household benefits. [36423]

**Chris Grayling:** If the benefit cap were applied in full, based on modelling using the Department for Work and Pension's Policy Simulation Model, it is estimated that households whose benefit is reduced as a result of the cap on total benefit income will lose on average around £93 per week.

We are looking at ways of easing the transition for families and providing assistance in hard cases.

Analysis of those affected by the benefit cap has been modelled using survey data—as such there is a degree of uncertainty around the results. Consequently, owing to small sample sizes, it is not possible to present the distribution of losses for sub groups of the overall population of households affected by the cap.

Analysis of the impact of the household cap on total benefit income was published in the Impact Assessment which accompanied the introduction of Welfare Reform Bill. The equality impact assessment has also been published on the Department for Work and Pension's website.

## Income: Universal Credit

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the protection to be given to households whose incomes will be uprated by the consumer prices index as a result of the introduction of universal credit. [44003]

**Chris Grayling:** I have interpreted the question as asking whether it is the intention to uprate any cash protection offered to claimants whose incomes fall as a result of the transition of universal credit.

We have given a commitment that no-one will experience a reduction in the amount of benefit they receive as a direct result of the introduction of universal credit.

In most cases, we expect that universal credit will provide a level of support that is the same as, or higher than, the current system. Transitional protection will be awarded if the entitlement is lower and the circumstances have not changed.

The current expectation is that any additional benefit awarded in this way will not be uprated.

## Jobcentre Plus: Incapacity Benefits

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what private sector organisations he plans to engage to assist Jobcentre Plus with the incapacity benefit reassessment programme; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such engagement. [45020]

**Chris Grayling:** No new commercial partners have been engaged to assist Jobcentre Plus with the reassessment of incapacity benefits. The following private sector organisations, engaged through existing commercial arrangements, have or will be providing services to support IB reassessment: HPES, Accenture, BT, ATOS, Gartner, DLA Piper, Cap Gemini and Capita. These organisations provide a wide range of services to the Department, such as the development and support of IT and the provision of medical services for the delivery of work capability assessments.

As no new commercial partners are being engaged, there are no direct procurement costs. The overall investment cost across the full range of services (planned and incurred) for these private sector partners is £159 million from April 2008 to March 2014.

## Motability: Bedford

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Bedford constituency claimed the mobility component of disability living allowance at *(a)* the higher rate, *(b)* the lower rate and *(c)* in total in the latest period for which figures are available. [45589]

**Maria Miller:** The information is included in the following table.

*Disability living allowance recipients with mobility component in Bedford parliamentary constituency—May 2010*

| | *Total* | *Higher rate* | *Lower rate* |
|---|---|---|---|
| DLA recipients with mobility component | 4,490 | 2,150 | 1,620 |

*Notes:*
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital. Figures exclude those with a nil mobility component rate.
3. Parliamentary constituency of claimant (Westminster) These constituencies are used for the Westminster parliament 2010.
4. These figures are published at:
http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html

*Source:*
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 100% WPLS

## Pensions

**Yvette Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men are in receipt of (i) the basic state pension, (ii) pension credit and (iii) the additional state pension. [47177]

**Steve Webb:** The information is in the following table.

*Men and women in receipt of basic state pension, additional state pension and pension credit (Great Britain, latest data)*

| | *Men* | *Women* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Basic state pension | 4,259,000 | 7,009,400 | 11,268,400 |
| Additional state pension | 4,221,400 | 6,314,900 | 10,536,300 |
| Pension credit | 1,070,230 | 1,663,930 | 2,734,170 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are for recipients in Great Britain only.
2. Figures for basic state pension and additional state pension are for March 2010; figures for pension credit are for May 2010.
3. Figures for basic state pension and additional state pension are rounded to the nearest 100 individuals; figures for pension credit are rounded to the nearest 10 individuals. Differences in rounding reflect different data sources. Figures may not sum due to rounding.
4. Additional state pension includes entitlement built up under the Graduated Retirement Benefit scheme, the State Earnings-Related Pension Scheme, and the State Second Pension scheme.
5. Pension credit figures refer to household recipients. Pension credit household recipients are those people who receive pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner.
6. All of the figures in the table are available on the DWP website at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool
and
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/adhoc_analysis/2011/average_grb_serps_s2p.pdf

*Source:*
DWP, Information Directorate, 5% sample administrative data and Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

## Personal Independence Payments

**Graeme Morrice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has in respect of the level of understanding of *(a)* severe learning disabilities and *(b)* autism spectrum disorder to be required of staff engaged in the training and assessment procedures for personal independence payments. [45635]

**Maria Miller:** We are considering the most appropriate delivery model for the personal independence payment assessment. Appropriate training and guidance for both decision makers and assessors will be an integral element. This is relevant for severe learning disabilities and autistic spectrum disorders as well as other health conditions and impairments, to ensure that the new assessment accurately and consistently enables support to be targeted to those with the greatest need. Both I and departmental officials have met with a number of disability organisations representing learning disabilities and autistic spectrum disorders, to discuss our reform proposals and to seek their views on how the new benefit can best support those with autism and severe learning disabilities. We are keen to continue to work with disabled people and their organisations to ensure that the training and guidance is right.

## Social Security Benefits

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of monetary value of unclaimed benefits in the latest period for which figures are available; and how much was unclaimed for each benefit and allowance type. [45049]

**Chris Grayling:** For the six income-related benefits for which estimates are available there was between £6,930 million and £12,700 million left unclaimed in 2008-09; this compared to £38,110 million that was claimed and represents take-up by expenditure of between about 75% and 85%. The information by benefit is in the following table.

| Benefit | Unclaimed benefit (£ million) Lower | Upper |
|---|---|---|
| Income support/ employment and support allowance | 590 | 1,630 |
| Pension credit | 1,630 | 2,930 |
| Housing benefit | 1,780 | 3,410 |
| Council tax benefit | 1,490 | 2,150 |
| Jobseeker's allowance (income based) | 1,450 | 2,580 |

*Source:*
Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2008-09

### Social Security Benefits: Overpayments

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the expected level of benefit overpayments in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [44993]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department publishes estimates of fraud and error in the benefit system twice yearly as National Statistics. The latest estimates relate to the period from October 2008 to September 2009 and can be found at:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd2/index.php?page=fraud_error_arc

The Department does not produce formal projections for the amount it expects to lose in future years as a result of fraud and error. However, the Department, together with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, has estimated that through the implementation of their joint fraud and error strategy the level of fraud and error in the benefit and tax credit systems will reduce by 25% (£1.4 billion) by the end of the comprehensive spending review period.

### State Retirement Pensions: Age

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has any plans to provide support for those affected by the proposed increase in the state pension age for women born between 1953 and 1959. [45262]

**Steve Webb:** Our changes to the State Pension age will ensure the system is sustainable in the long term.

We are taking steps to ensure those who want to continue to work can do so and are able to save for retirement. For those not be able to continue we will provide support with working age benefits.

We have also announced plans for radical reform of the welfare system which will provide better tailored employment help to customers, including our older customers, and which will ensure that work always pays and is seen to pay.

### Universal Credit

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the effects of the introduction of universal credit on the income of couple households of one full-time worker and two children and household earnings between £8,000 and £32,000 per year in the first four years of its introduction. [43690]

**Chris Grayling:** After the introduction of the universal credit there will be a number of years of transition as existing cases migrate to the new system. It is not possible to produce estimates on a year-by-year basis during this transition period.

The introduction of universal credit will enable the Government to increase and better target the support that is provided through the benefit system in order to ensure that work always pays and the most vulnerable are protected. Increased support will come from greater generosity for in-work households with low earnings and more consistent support as households increase their earnings.

Transitional protection will ensure that there are no cash losers at the point of transition as a result changes in the way benefit is calculated.

More details on levels of support in Great Britain under universal credit are contained in the impact assessment published on 16 February.

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assumptions his Department made on the *(a)* employment rate, *(b)* number of vacancies and *(c)* claimant count in carrying out the impact assessment for universal credit in each year to 2015. [44991]

**Chris Grayling:** There are no explicit assumptions made about the employment rate, number of vacancies and claimant count in carrying out the impact assessment for universal credit. Estimates carried out in the impact assessment for universal credit have been derived using the Department's Policy Simulation Model (PSM).

The PSM is a static micro simulation model of the GB tax and benefit system based on data from the Family Resources Survey (latest available year 2008-09). The PSM takes the FRS survey data and uprates it to the year of analysis (in this case 2014-15)—taking account of projected changes in benefit rates, earnings, other incomes and demographic change.

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to table 2 of his Department's impact assessment on universal credit, how many households in receipt of the lower entitlement will be affected in each £10,000 income band. [44992]

**Chris Grayling:** The information is as follows:

1. Transitional protection will ensure that there are no cash losers from Universal Credit at the point of introduction. The following table shows the estimated number of households whose entitlement to universal credit would be higher or lower than current benefits/ tax credits in £10,000 income bands.

*Estimated number and proportion of households whose entitlement to universal credit would be higher or lower than current benefits/tax credits in £10,000 income bands*

*Million*

| Annual income bands[1] | Lower entitlements | Higher entitlements |
|---|---|---|
| £0-£10,000 | 0.2 | 0.5 |
| £10,000-£20,000 | 0.7 | 0.8 |
| £20,000-£30,000 | 0.5 | 1.1 |
| £30,000-£40,000 | 0.2 | 0.3 |

*Estimated number and proportion of households whose entitlement to universal credit would be higher or lower than current benefits/tax credits in £10,000 income bands*

*Million*

| *Annual income bands*[1] | *Lower entitlements* | *Higher entitlements* |
|---|---|---|
| £40,000 and over | 0.1 | [2]— |
| Total | 1.7 | 2.7 |

[1] Based on net benefit unit income.

[2] Rounds to less then 50,000.

2. The changes in entitlement have been modelled using the Department's Policy Simulation Model (PSM) based on the Family Resources Survey (FRS); the latest FRS data available are for 2008-09.

3. Analysis is presented based on a projection of the FRS 2008-09 to 2014-15—incorporating forecast demographic change, announced policy changes and uprating.

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of people who will receive lower household entitlement under universal credit than under their benefit entitlements in 2010 in the first year of operation of universal credit. [45061]

**Chris Grayling:** After the introduction of universal credit there will be a number of years of transition as existing cases migrate to the new system. The precise migration process has still to be determined, and it is not possible to produce estimates on a year-by-year basis during this transition period.

We estimate that in the steady state—once all existing claimants have been migrated to universal credit—some 2.7 million households will have higher entitlements than they would have done under the current system, while 1.7 million will notionally have a lower entitlement than under the current system.

Transitional protection will ensure that there are no cash losers from universal credit. At the point of transition, households who experience a notional reduction in their entitlement will receive full cash protection against this change.

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of people who will enter work solely as a result of the introduction of universal credit. [45136]

**Chris Grayling:** This information is not available. The universal credit reforms outlined the White Paper "Universal Credit: Welfare that works" set out changes in the benefit structure but also set out a strengthened conditionality and sanctions regime. Taken together we estimate that the reforms could reduce the number of workless households by around 300,000.

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to paragraph 51 of his Department's impact assessment on universal credit, which benefits will be subject to automatic passporting. [45181]

**Chris Grayling:** Universal credit will streamline a number of existing benefits (income support, jobseeker's allowance (income-based), employment support allowance (income-related) housing benefit) and tax credits into one unified payment. Therefore, when an individual claims one aspect of universal credit (ie income replacement aspect), they will automatically receive amounts associated with their children and their housing costs. As a result, there will be an 'automatic passporting' effect for people who currently claim some, but not all, of the benefits or tax credits to which they are entitled.

### Universal Credit: Children

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assumptions underlie his estimate that *(a)* 950,000 individuals and *(b)* 350,000 children will be lifted out of poverty through the introduction of universal credit. [45134]

**Chris Grayling:** Estimates of the reduction in poverty have been derived using the Department's Policy Simulation Model (PSM). The PSM is a static micro simulation model of the GB tax and benefit system based on data from the Family Resources Survey (latest available year 2008-09).

The PSM takes the FRS survey data and uprates them to the year of analysis (in this case 2014-15)—taking account of projected changes in benefit rates, earnings, other incomes and demographic change. It models the rules of the tax and benefit system and applies these to the data allowing us to calculate net incomes for each member of the sample. We are able to model a change in the tax and benefit rules and estimate the subsequent impact on household incomes and numbers in poverty.

The universal credit reform has been modelled in the PSM and takes account of the increase in take up which we expect to occur as a result of moving to a simpler, consolidated benefit. Numbers in poverty are compared under the tax and benefit system both with and without the universal credit. Poverty was estimated for children and working age adults on a before housing costs basis consistent with the definitions used in the Households Below Average Income Publication.

### Universal Credit: Glasgow

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the number of persons who will be subject to the higher withdrawal rates of universal credit in *(a)* Glasgow North East constituency, *(b)* Glasgow, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* the UK in each of the four years following its introduction. [43681]

**Chris Grayling:** After the introduction of the universal credit there will be a number of years of transition as existing cases migrate to the new system and it is not possible to produce estimates during this transition period.

The financial reward for low earners seeking to increase their earnings would be improved through the introduction of a single taper rate of about 65%. We expect the highest marginal deduction rate, including tax and national insurance contributions, for low-earning workers will be reduced from around 96% to around 76%.

More details on marginal deduction rates for Great Britain under universal credit are contained in the Impact Assessment published on 16 February 2011.

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the net change in the incomes of couple households of one full-time worker and two children in *(a)* Glasgow North East constituency, *(b)* Glasgow, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* the UK attributable to the introduction of universal credit in each of the next four financial years. [43683]

**Chris Grayling:** After the introduction of the universal credit there will be a number of years of transition as existing cases migrate to the new system. It is not possible to produce estimates on a year-by-year basis during this transition period.

The introduction of universal credit will enable the Government to increase and better target the support that is provided through the benefit system in order to ensure that work always pays and the most vulnerable are protected. Increased support will come from greater generosity for in-work households with low earnings and more consistent support as households increase their earnings. Transitional protection will ensure that there are no cash losers at the point of transition as a result of changes in the way benefit is calculated.

More details on levels of support in Great Britain under universal credit are contained in the Impact Assessment published on 16 February 2011.

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of *(a)* households and *(b)* individuals in (i) Glasgow North East constituency, (ii) Glasgow, (iii) Scotland and (iv) the UK who will be ineligible for universal credit because they have savings of over £16,000 in each of the four years following its introduction. [43684]

**Chris Grayling:** After the introduction of the universal credit there will be a number of years of transition as existing cases migrate to the new system. It is not possible to produce estimates on a year-by-year basis during this transition period.

Transitional protection will ensure that there are no cash losers at the point of transition as a result changes in the way benefit is calculated.

Under universal credit an assumed income will be taken into account where a single claimant or couple has capital of between £6,000 and £16,000. In addition there will be no entitlement to universal credit where a single claimant or couple has capital of over £16,000. This is exactly the same as now for income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, income-related employment and support allowance and housing benefit but is different from the current position in tax credits.

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of *(a)* households and *(b)* individuals in (i) Glasgow North East constituency, (ii) Glasgow, (iii) Scotland and (iv) the UK with savings of between £6,000 and £16,000 who will have reduced eligibility for universal credit in each of the four years following its introduction. [43685]

**Chris Grayling:** After the introduction of the universal credit there will be a number of years of transition as existing cases migrate to the new system. It is not possible to produce estimates on a year-by-year basis during this transition period.

Transitional protection will ensure that there are no cash losers at the point of transition as a result of changes in the way benefit is calculated.

Under universal credit an assumed income will be taken into account where a single claimant or couple has capital of between £6,000 and £16,000. This is exactly the same as now for income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, income-related employment and support allowance and housing benefit but is different from the current position in tax credits.

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the average change in income of *(a)* households and *(b)* individuals in (i) Glasgow North East constituency, (ii) Glasgow, (iii) Scotland and (iv) the UK with savings of between £6,000 and £16,000 as a result of reduced eligibility for universal credit in each of the four years following its introduction. [43686]

**Chris Grayling:** After the introduction of the universal credit there will be a number of years of transition as existing cases migrate to the new system. It is not possible to produce estimates on a year-by-year basis during this transition period.

Transitional protection will ensure that there are no cash losers at the point of transition as a result of changes in the way benefit is calculated.

Under universal credit an assumed income will be taken into account where a single claimant or couple has capital of between £6,000 and £16,000. This is exactly the same as now for income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, income-related employment and support allowance and housing benefit but is different from the current position in tax credits.

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the effects of the introduction of universal credit on the amount retained from each additional pound earned in couple households of one full-time worker and two children with household earnings between £8,000 and £32,000 per year in the first four years of its introduction. [43687]

**Chris Grayling:** After the introduction of the universal credit there will be a number of years of transition as existing cases migrate to the new system and it is not possible to produce estimates during this transition period.

The financial reward for low earners seeking to increase their earnings would be improved through the introduction of a single taper rate of about 65%. We expect the highest marginal deduction rate, including tax and national insurance contributions, for low-earning workers will be reduced from around 96% to around 76%.

More details on marginal deduction rates for Great Britain under universal credit are contained in the impact assessment published on 16 February.

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the effect on average income of *(a)* households and *(b)* individuals in (i) Glasgow North East constituency, (ii) Glasgow, (iii) Scotland and (iv) the UK with savings of over £16,000 of ineligibility for universal credit in each of the four years following its introduction. [43688]

**Chris Grayling:** After the introduction of the universal credit there will be a number of years of transition as existing cases migrate to the new system. It is not possible to produce estimates on a year-by-year basis during this transition period.

Transitional protection will ensure that there are no cash losers at the point of transition as a result changes in the way benefit is calculated.

Under universal credit an assumed income will be taken into account where a single claimant or couple has capital of between £6,000 and £16,000. In addition there will be no entitlement to universal credit where a single claimant or couple has capital of over £16,000. This is exactly the same as now for income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, income-related employment and support allowance and housing benefit but is different from the current position in tax credits.

### Universal Credit: Public Expenditure

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of protection for benefit recipients in each year of the transition to universal credit. [45153]

**Chris Grayling:** The Government have made a commitment that there will be no cash losers purely as a result of the move to universal credit. At the point of change a comparison will be made between current amount received in tax credits and/or benefits and the household entitlement under universal credit. If the universal credit entitlement is less, and no other circumstances have changed, a cash amount will be paid in order to make up the difference.

This money is included within the universal credit spending envelope. Estimates on a year-by-year basis during the transition period are not available.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Boilers

**Mr Robin Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the outcome of the boiler scrappage scheme. [47260]

**Gregory Barker:** The formal evaluation of the Boiler scrappage scheme has recently been completed and a draft of the findings has been sent to the Department. We will publish the final evaluation report shortly.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on *(a)* salaries and *(b)* pension entitlements for special advisers in the financial year 2010-11 to date. [46580]

**Gregory Barker:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change has spent *(a)* £173,862.30 on salaries (including severance payments), and *(b)* £27,411.96 on pension entitlements for special advisers in this financial year to February 2011.

### Departmental Public Appointments

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which public bodies sponsored by his Department *(a)* have been and *(b)* are to be closed, merged or reorganised following his appointment; and how many (i) women and (ii) men who are public appointees at each body will no longer hold such an appointment in consequence. [47106]

**Gregory Barker:** The following public bodies have been closed since May 2010: the UK Chemical Weapons Convention National Authority Advisory Committee (NAAC), the Renewables Advisory Board (RAB), and the Advisory Committee on Carbon Abatement Technologies (ACCAT). No further changes have been proposed at this time. There were seven public appointees at NAAC of whom one was female; 18 at RAB of whom two were female; and 15 at ACCAT of whom two were female.

### Regulation

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on how many occasions his Department has consulted representatives of small businesses on the effects of proposed new regulations since 6 May 2010. [46145]

**Gregory Barker:** Since 6 May 2010 we have formally consulted on 39 regulatory proposals. As part of our consultation process we invite small businesses and their representatives to participate whenever they may have an interest.

However, ongoing dialogue has become an important part of the policymaking process in DECC and engagement with small businesses is not limited to these formal consultations. Since 6 May 2010 the Department has run a number of events in which small businesses have been involved, including workshops, meetings and discussion forums.

### Electricity Supply

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will amend the draft National Policy Statement on Electricity Networks Infrastructure in the light of the recent research on bird strikes on overhead electricity lines. [45504]

**Charles Hendry:** A section on bird strike on overhead lines was added to the National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) before the consultation on the revised NPSs last year as a result of work done on the Appraisal of Sustainability for the Energy NPSs. We are not aware of any recent research on bird strikes that would warrant a further change to EN-5 and we did not receive any requests to consider any research during the consultation, which closed on 24 January 2011.

### Energy: EU Action

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of implementing the measures on the Energy 2020 Strategy adopted by the Energy Council on 28 February 2011. [47010]

**Gregory Barker:** The Energy Strategy 2020 sets out the broad direction of EU energy policy over the next decade. Now that the strategy has been adopted, the Commission will develop specific legislative initiatives and proposals over the next 18 months. As these proposals are formulated we will undertake rigorous cost/benefit analyses to ensure that the proposals represent value for money in meeting our energy and climate objectives.

### EU Emissions Trading Scheme

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the efforts of the interaction between the EU Emissions Trading scheme and the proposed Emissions Performance Standard. [47134]

**Gregory Barker:** The Electricity Market Reform consultation contained proposals to introduce an EPS as a preventative measure, targeted at preventing the construction and operation of new, unabated coal-fired power stations. The Government assessment of the current evidence is that this form of EPS would have minimal interactions with the EU Emissions Trading scheme system.

### Solar Power

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects of his announcement on 7 February 2011 on the number of companies participating in the solar photovoltaics market; and if he will make a statement. [45789]

**Gregory Barker:** We continue to have constant dialogue with representatives within the industry and are aware of their views. Assessment of the impact of any proposed changes to Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) will be published as part of the review.

The consultation on the fast-track review will be launched soon.

### Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 241W, on solar power: feed-in tariffs, how many megawatts of solar photovoltaic generating capacity currently registered for feed-in tariff payments *(a)* were installed between July 2009 and April 2010 and *(b)* are historic transfers from the renewables obligation. [46443]

**Gregory Barker:** Data received from Ofgem on FITs uptake for the period 1 April—30 December 2010 were used by the Department for the publication of Energy Statistics table ET 5.6, on 27 January 2011:

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/source/electricity/electricity.aspx

Data consistent with this table showed that of the 45MW installed solar PV capacity (17,200 installations), 5.3MW (2,262 installations) were installed between 15 July 2010 and the 31 March 2010, and 6.8MW (2,556 installations) transferred from the renewables obligation (RO).

## EDUCATION

### Academies and Free Schools

**Ian Mearns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much and what proportion of formula grant provided for each local authority is to be top-sliced to cover expenditure on Academies and Free Schools in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13. [39893]

**Mr Gibb:** The adjustments to the formula grant for each local authority, in respect of expenditure on academies and free schools, are available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/1112/1011adjustedss.xls

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/1112/1112adjustedss.xls

These adjustments were based on national averages and estimates, applied equally to all local authorities. The deductions do not affect the schools budget in each authority, which is funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant direct from the Department, rather than through formula grant.

**Ian Mearns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what methodology is used to calculate the amount of formula grant to be top-sliced from local authorities to cover expenditure on Academies and Free Schools. [39894]

**Mr Gibb:** Calculations were based on the amounts of local authority central services equivalent grant (LACSEG), which are currently paid to academies that have converted from a maintained school. There are two elements to the grant: the proportion which the Department funds from the Dedicated Schools Grant that would otherwise go to local authority schools budgets, and the proportion that the Department funds from other sources, because it is in respect of services normally paid from other local authority funds. For the latter, on the basis of local authorities' financial statements provided to the Department under section 251 of the Apprenticeships Schools Children and Learning Act 2009, we estimated an average amount per pupil across all local authorities, and applied that to estimates of the number of pupils in new academies and free schools opening over the next two years. The resultant amounts were then reduced by the Department for Communities and Local Government to reflect overall reductions in local authorities' formula grant. The top slice totals are £148 million in 2011-12 and £265 million in 2012-13, and these are the amounts to be transferred to the Department to contribute to LACSEG costs.

### Apprentices

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the potential effects in the quality of apprenticeship places of reductions in his Department's contribution to funding rate for apprenticeships. [39076]

**Mr Hayes** *[holding answer 10 February 2011]:* In December 2010 the Young People's Learning Agency announced that the national funding rate for apprenticeships funded by the Department for Education would be reduced by 2% per year from 2011/12. This reflects the Government's commitment to ending the disparity in funding schools, colleges and work-based learning providers to deliver provision for 16-19 year olds and to reflect the better efficiency of the sector in delivering apprenticeships.

Quality in apprenticeships is assured through the "Specification of Apprenticeship Standards for England" which we published in January and will come into force in April this year. This sets out the minimum core content that can be expected in an apprenticeship. The Government are committed to not merely maintaining, but to improving the quality of apprenticeships and to this end the National Apprenticeship Service has endorsed the publication and dissemination by the Learning and Skills Improvement Service of a diagnostic toolkit to help employers and training providers supply high quality training places.

The 2% reduction in the apprenticeship funding rate represents an equitable contribution to the savings required across the 16-19 education system. I am confident that the Government's priority for expanding and improving the quality of the Apprenticeship programme can be delivered whilst making these savings. As we grow the number of apprenticeships, the cost of delivery for providers will be reduced through economies of scale and where learners complete their training more quickly with no loss of quality, appropriate reductions in payment will be made.

## Booktrust: Finance

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education which bodies he consulted before deciding to end funding for Booktrust. [33169]

**Sarah Teather:** The future funding for the programme which contributes to Booktrust was considered as part of the overall spending review. This looked at where the Government could secure best value for public funds in a tight fiscal climate. During the process and as part of routine grant management arrangements, officials met Booktrust several times to discuss options for the future shape of the scheme. There has been no separate consultation with others. On 25 February 2011 we announced that a new book gifting scheme would be delivered in 2011-13. Booktrust will receive £7.5 million for its delivery in 2011-12 and £6 million for its delivery in 2012-13.

## Boxing

**Charlotte Leslie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of schools in each local authority area offer boxing as part of the sports curriculum. [39474]

**Tim Loughton:** The Department's PE and Sport Survey 2009/10, published in September 2010, reports that 10% of schools in England provided boxing in 2009/10. This information is not available at local authority level.

## Bullying: Personal Income

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment his Department has made of the effects of income inequality on levels of childhood bullying. [44209]

**Mr Gibb:** The Department has not carried out any assessment of the inequalities of income for those who were bullied in their childhood, but we do know from the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England, which was published in 2008, that bullying impacts on the lives of victims both in terms of future levels of attainment and other outcomes.

Analysis of this study showed that pupils aged 16 who reported having been bullied in the previous three years were twice as likely not to be in employment, education or training compared to those who had not been bullied. The study demonstrated that those pupils who reported being bullied in the last three years did substantially worse in their GCSEs than those who reported no bullying. Some 52% of those who said they had been bullied in the last three years achieved 5 A*-C grades in their GCSEs in 2006, compared with 67% of respondents who said that they had not been bullied in the last three years.

It also showed that pupils who receive free school meals are slightly more likely to report being victims of bullying than those who do not.

## CAFCASS

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) whether Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service employees can participate in the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service professional Google group forum; [45822]

(2) how much was spent by the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service on agency social work staff in 2009-10; [45823]

(3) how much was spent by the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service on engaging self-employed children's guardians in 2009-10; [45824]

(4) what the retention rate was of *(a)* employees and *(b)* self-employed children's guardians by the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in (i) 2004-05 and (ii) 2009-10; [45825]

(5) how much the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service spent on *(a)* self-employed children's guardians and *(b)* hiring agency staff in each of the last two financial years. [45826]

**Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what the cost to the public purse was of the regional structure of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in 2009-10; [46029]

(2) what the percentage change was in costs to the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service of hiring agency staff *(a)* between 2007-08 and 2008-09 and *(b)* between 2008-09 and 2009-10; [46030]

(3) what account Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service managers take of *(a)* children's needs and *(b)* practitioners' skills when allocating cases to practitioners; [46032]

(4) whether the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service has negotiated a workload agreement with relevant trade unions; [46033]

(5) what assessment he has made of the suitability of the use of e-mail by Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service managers to allocate cases to practitioners. [46034]

**Tim Loughton:** These questions relate to operational matters for which CAFCASS is responsible. I have asked CAFCASS's chief executive, Anthony Douglas, to write to the hon. Gentlemen to address the issues raised. A copy of his letters will be placed in the House Library.

### Children: Obesity

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the relationship between childhood obesity levels and participation in sport; and if he will make a statement. [27625]

**Tim Loughton** *[holding answer 30 November 2010]:* Childhood obesity levels have fallen from 16.9% in 2003, to 16% in 2008. This small, although very welcome, fall in childhood obesity levels will be the result of many complex factors, one of which may be participation in school sport over the period.

### Children: Protection

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate the scoping review to draw together data on child injury and safeguarding and to compare the position in England with that in other countries undertaken by the Childhood Wellbeing Research Centre with funding from his Department made of the number of children in the UK who died as a result of abuse or neglect between 2005 and 2007. [45184]

**Tim Loughton:** The child death rate due to negligence, maltreatment or physical assault is provided in table 5.4 of the report (page 50). The UK rate was 0.24 per 100,000 children. This was the lowest within the sample of countries but caution is needed in interpreting the data because in the UK there are a number of deaths registered each year where the cause of death is undetermined or yet to be determined; these may at a later date be reclassified as having been caused by negligence, maltreatment or physical assault. The USA had the highest rate at 3.67.

The full report is available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/DFE-RR083.pdf

### Children's Centres

**Glenda Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many Sure Start children's centres he expects to be open in 2014-15; what proportion of these he expects to offer a full service; and if he will take steps to ensure the network of Sure Start children's centres is maintained. [38416]

**Sarah Teather:** Sure Start children's centres are a clear priority for the Government—they play a really important role in supporting families with young children and intervening early to prevent problems from becoming crises. The Government have ensured there is enough money in the system to maintain a network of Sure Start children's centres accessible to all but targeting the families in greatest need.

It is for local authorities, in consultation with local communities, to determine the most effective way of delivering future services to meet local need. They have a duty to consult before opening, closing or significantly changing children's centres and to secure sufficient centre provision to meet local need so far as is reasonably practical.

### Children's Centres: Finance

**Shabana Mahmood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how much funding he plans to provide to Sure Start centres in *(a)* Birmingham, Ladywood constituency, *(b)* Birmingham and *(c)* England in each of the next five years; [43116]

(2) whether his Department has withdrawn any previously allocated Sure Start funding in *(a)* Birmingham, Ladywood constituency, *(b)* Birmingham and *(c)* England for (i) 2010-11 and (ii) the next four financial years. [43117]

**Sarah Teather:** The Early Intervention Grant is a new un-ring-fenced and un-hypothecated funding stream which from 1 April 2011 will give local authorities greater flexibility to target resources strategically and intervene early to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. The Government have ensured there is enough money within the Early Intervention Grant to maintain a network of Sure Start children's centres, accessible to all but identifying and supporting families in greatest need. To date only the EIG funding for the financial years 2011-12 and 2012-13 has been announced and is only available by local authority—the figures for Birmingham city council and all other local authorities in England are available at:

http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/xls/e/early%20intervention%20grant%20-%20final%20allocations%20methodology.xls

Up to the end of the 2010-11 financial year funding for Sure Start children's centres has been made through the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant (SSEYCG). The base allocations for Sure Start children's centres for the financial year 2010-11 remain as announced at the start of the 2008-11 comprehensive spending review period. For Birmingham and England those figures are as follows:

| | *Birmingham* | *England* |
|---|---|---|
| 2010-11 Revenue Allocation—Children's Centres and SSLPs | 37,992,065 | 1,135,147,893 |
| 2010-11 Capital Allocation—Children's Centres | 1,574,086 | 100,999,997 |

The Department does not allocate funding at constituency level. It is for local authorities to determine how best to allocate available funding within their areas. The allocations for all local authorities can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/earlylearningandchildcare/a0071955/sure-start-early-years-and-childcare-grant-and-aiming-high-for-disabled-children-ahdc-grant-la-funding-allocations-for-2010-11

Published allocations for Sure Start children's centres are not individually ring-fenced within the main revenue block of the SSEYCG and therefore are notional. Local authorities have the freedom to spend the available funding flexibly within that block to best meet local objectives and priorities, subject to the terms and conditions set out in the Memorandum of Grant letter.

In addition to the capital base allocation the Department had been able to offer some carry-forward of unspent SSEYCG capital funding from prior years. Given the unprecedented fiscal deficit the Department restricted carry-forward of SSEYCG capital (which includes Sure Start children's centres) to cases where funding was required for the completion of the children's centres programme, or where there was evidence of a contractual commitment either with a building contractor or for goods.

The Department's calculations of carry-forward are predicated on levels of expenditure from prior years. We are awaiting audited financial returns from a number of local authorities, at which point carry-forward for all local authorities will be finalised.

In 2010 the coalition Government announced the cessation of the Buddying and 0-7 Partnership Pilot programmes. The two programmes were paid under the umbrella of the SSEYCG. Details of the original and revised 2010-10 allocations for Birmingham and England are as follows:

| | *Birmingham* | *England* |
|---|---|---|
| Original 2010-11.Buddying Allocation | 379,916 | 4,901,002 |
| Revised 2010-11 Buddying Allocation | 94,979 | 1,225,252 |
| Original 0-7 Partnership Pilot Allocation | 0 | 3,396,915 |
| Revised 0-7 Partnership Pilot Allocation | 0 | 849,230 |

## Children: Deaths

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children's deaths were recorded in an Ofsted significant incident report as resulting from suspected *(a)* abuse and *(b)* neglect in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010. [44778]

**Tim Loughton:** This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

*Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 7 March 2011:*

Ofsted does not hold 'significant incident reports'. However, Ofsted receives serious incident notifications from local authorities.

Data on the number of children's deaths owing to 'abuse' or 'neglect' in serious incident notifications for the period requested are not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. It is rarely clear at the point of notification of a serious incident whether that incident is attributable to either neglect or abuse.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Tim Loughton MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

## Class Sizes

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has assessed any relationship between levels of student educational attainment and class sizes *(a)* below 30 and *(b)* of 30 and above in (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools. [44622]

**Tim Loughton:** The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), has not assessed any relationship between levels of student educational attainment and class sizes *(a)* below 30 and *(b)* of 30 and above in (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools.

## Day Care: Disabled

**Kate Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether disabled children will be classified as disadvantaged for the purposes of allocating free childcare for two-year-olds. [23310]

**Sarah Teather:** On 4 March, the Minister with responsibility for schools wrote to the House of Commons Public Bill Committee on the Education Bill 2010-11 and set out in a policy statement the Government's latest thinking on the eligibility criteria for free early education places for two-year-olds. This confirmed our intention to use an economic indicator, such as eligibility for free school meals. We are committed to consulting fully on the eligibility criteria for two-year-old places and will do so in due course. The consultation will also consider whether and how local authorities could be provided discretion to fund places beyond nationally defined eligibility criteria.

## Departmental Communication

**Alok Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what measures he has undertaken to reduce jargon and promote plain English in departmental communications. [35792]

**Tim Loughton:** We know that communicating clearly is essential to good government. We have always worked hard to try to remove jargon and we continue to make sure that staff at all levels treat this as an important issue. Consequently we provide regular training.

For example, to promote plain English in departmental communications, we have produced a "Style Guide"—an internal tool containing advice on using plain English, writing for the web and A-Z of house style. We also regularly run writing workshops for our staff that focus on writing in plain English, making sure communications are tailored to the audience and are written in an appropriate tone of voice. This is an ongoing programme of work.

Our internal communications to staff are jargon-free, to help promote good practice. We have also featured a series of articles in our staff magazine on the importance of good writing skills and some tips on how to keep communications free from jargon and written in plain English. Each item of correspondence from young people 18 or under receives a reply from a Minister and we ensure that each reply is suitably tailored to suit the recipient's understanding.

To support the Department's work on reducing bureaucracy, we are also developing a programme to improve the quality, format, and clarity of our communications to schools and other frontline groups. This includes improvements to statutory guidance, consultations, and online content. We also regularly test the content and tone of communications with groups of frontline staff before they are issued, so that we know that they make sense to heads, teachers and others.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has spent on furniture since May 2010. [36044]

**Tim Loughton:** The Department for Education has incurred expenditure of £672,142.37 on furniture since May 2010. Of the expenditure incurred, £660,299.37 related to an inherited commitment from the previous administration for furniture procured prior to May 2010 for the Department's new accommodation in Sheffield. The remaining £11,843 was spent on general furniture replacement across the Department's estate.

A further £6,892.08 was spent on furniture supplied to staff for reasonable adjustments as required by DDA legislation.

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Mr Blunkett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what reason his Department did not invite the Grandparents Association to submit a bid for its proposed advice line. [45497]

**Sarah Teather:** The Department is currently running a procurement process to award contracts to organisations to deliver online and telephone family support services over 2011-13.

The process is fully in line with best practice set by the EU procurement Directives and Government procurement rules.

This is a two stage process and only organisations whose first stage assessment score reached 60% or more of the total score were invited to submit full bids. The assessment of the Grandparents Association pre-qualification questionnaire did not reach the required threshold. I cannot comment further on the bid while we are still in a procurement process since it could affect the Department's commercial position.

We will be writing to the right hon. Member separately about this procurement.

### Early Intervention Grant: Finance

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what funding his Department plans to provide for the Early Intervention Grant for the Think Family scheme in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; [40528]

(2) what funding his Department plans to provide for the Early Intervention Grant for Connexions in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; [40559]

(3) what funding his Department plans to provide for the Early Intervention Grant for the Disabled Children Short Breaks scheme in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; [40560]

(4) what funding his Department plans to provide for the Early Intervention Grant for the Two Year Old Offer in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; [40561]

(5) what funding his Department plans to provide for the Early Intervention Grant for the Early Years Workforce scheme in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; [40562]

(6) what funding his Department plans to provide for the Early Intervention Grant for Early Years Sustainability in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; [40563]

(7) what funding his Department plans to provide for the Early Intervention Grant for Sure Start Children's Centres in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; [40564]

(8) what funding his Department plans to provide for the Early Intervention Grant for the Child Trust Fund scheme in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; [40607]

(9) what funding his Department plans to provide for the Early Intervention Grant for the January Guarantee scheme in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; [40608]

(10) what funding his Department plans to provide for the Early Intervention Grant for the Intensive Intervention Grant in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; [40609]

(11) what funding his Department plans to provide for the Early Intervention Grant for the Children's Social Care Workforce in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; [40610]

(12) what funding his Department plans to provide for the Early Intervention Grant for ContactPoint in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; [40611]

(13) what funding his Department plans to provide for the Early Intervention Grant for the Targeted Mental Health in Schools Grant in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; [40612]

(14) what funding his Department plans to provide for the Early Intervention Grant for Key Stage 4 Foundation Learning in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; [40613]

(15) what funding his Department plans to provide for the Early Intervention Grant for the Teenage Pregnancy scheme in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; [40614]

(16) what funding his Department plans to provide for the Early Intervention Grant for the Young People Substance Misuse scheme in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; [40615]

(17) what funding his Department plans to provide for the Early Intervention Grant for the Children's Fund in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; [40616]

(18) what funding his Department plans to provide for the Early Intervention Grant for the Youth Taskforce in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; [40617]

(19) what funding his Department plans to provide for the Early Intervention Grant for the Positive Activities for Young People Programme in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; [40618]

(20) what funding his Department plans to provide for the Early Intervention Grant for the Challenge and Support scheme in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; [40619]

(21) what funding his Department plans to provide for the Early Intervention Grant for the Youth Crime Action Plan in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; [40620]

(22) what funding his Department plans to provide for the Early Intervention Grant for the Youth Opportunity Fund in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; [40621]

**Sarah Teather:** All of the funding streams specified above will have ended by the end of March 2011 and are replaced by the Early Intervention Grant. The Early Intervention Grant is a new un-ring-fenced and un-hypothecated funding stream that gives local authorities greater flexibility to target resources strategically and intervene early to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. This is a major reform and gives local authorities greater freedom to respond to local needs and target resources where they will have the greatest impact. The overall Early Intervention Grant is £2,222 million in 2011-12 and £2,307 million in 2012-13.

Against the background of greater flexibility to decide priorities locally, there are key areas of early intervention where the Government are ensuring that the overall grant provides support:

Sure Start Children's Centres—Funding for Sure Start Children's Centres in 2010-11 was £1.1 billion. We have ensured there is sufficient money in the Early Intervention Grant to retain a network of Sure Start Children's Centres, accessible to all but identifying and supporting families in greatest need.

Short Breaks for Disabled Children: the Department will be providing £198 million/£202 million/£206 million/£210 million over the next four years.

Early Education Places for Disadvantaged Two-Year-Olds: the Department will provide £64 million/£223 million/£331 million/£380 million over the next four years. For the first two years of the spending period, this funding will be routed through the Early Intervention Grant. Ministers are considering the most appropriate route for funding from 2013-14 when it is expected that a duty for local authorities to provide free places for all disadvantaged two-year-olds will come into force.

The Secretary of State for Education's written ministerial statement on the Early Intervention Grant is available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a0070450/written-ministerial-statement-by-the-secretary-of-state-for-education-on-schools-financial-settlement-education-spending

The Technical Note for the Early Intervention Grant is available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/earlylearningandchildcare/a0070357/early-intervention-grant-frequently-asked-questions/?cid=LAemail&pla=25feb2011&type=email

### Education Business Partnerships: Finance

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to announce his decision on funding for education business partnership services from April 2011. [43558]

**Mr Gibb:** We plan to announce decisions shortly. I will write to the hon. Member.

### Education: Assessments

**Nicola Blackwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation will collaborate with universities in its work to monitor and improve the quality of A levels and GCSEs. [43091]

**Mr Gibb:** This is a matter for Ofqual, the independent exams regulator, and I have asked Glenys Stacey, chief executive of Ofqual, to write to the hon. Member on it. I am aware that Ms Stacey has now done that and I will arrange for a copy of Ms Stacey's letter to be placed in the Library.

*Letter from Glenys Stacey, dated 8 March 2011:*

Further to your Parliamentary Question asking whether the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation will collaborate with universities in its work to monitor and improve the quality of A levels and GCSEs, I have three key areas of work being undertaken which you may find of interest in relation to this matter.

*Providing universities a role in the design and development of A levels*

I can confirm that Ofqual has been working in collaboration with colleagues from the Department for Education to establish how universities can be given a key role in the design and development of A levels in future. To date a series of workshops have been held with Higher Education representatives from different subject areas to identify the range of HE requirements for A levels and potential approaches for securing effective involvement.

We shall take the outcomes to Higher Education management groups, awarding organisations and learned societies to establish how to arrive at a process to secure the involvement of Higher Education in future developments of A levels that commands widespread confidence in the sector.

*Monitoring work and Higher Education involvement*

In our monitoring work, Ofqual involves Higher Education as appropriate. For work such as scrutinies (in-depth analyses of individual qualifications) and standards reviews (comparisons of standards in a qualification over, say, a five year period) some of the independent subject experts that we use have a Higher Education background.

In addition, for work that has a clear link with Higher Education, we invite Higher Education representatives as well as other subject experts. For the current international study we invited the university sector specifically (as the purpose of the review was to judge appropriate demand for entrance to UK universities).

*Recruitment of subject experts*

In order to ensure that recruitment of our independent subject experts is fair and open, Ofqual advertises annually to recruit individuals with subject and/or assessment expertise. It is from this pool that we draw our 'independent' subject experts. In most studies we additionally invite representatives from the regulators for Wales and Northern Ireland, awarding organisations involved in the study and learned societies to nominate representatives. We do not determine how these organisations select their nominees but they would be free to nominate representatives from Higher Education Where appropriate.

I trust that this clarifies the situation and provides you with the information you require.

Should you require any further information about this or the workings of Ofqual, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

### Education: Finance

**Ian Mearns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how much and what proportion of formula grant to each local education authority has been allocated to expenditure on academies and free schools in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; how many (i) academies and (ii) free schools there are in each such authority; and how many applications for (A) academies and (B) free schools have been received in respect of each authority; [36851]

(2) how many *(a)* academies and *(b)* free schools there are in each local authority area; and how many schools have applied to establish (i) an academy and (ii) a free school in each such area. [39892]

**Mr Gibb:** Formula grant is unhypothecated and it is not therefore possible to identify how much has been allocated for particular services. Local authorities are responsible for decisions on the use of formula grant.

The adjustments to the baseline for the formula grant for academies in 2010-11 and 2011-12, by each local authority (LA), are available on the Department for Communities and Local Government's web pages:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/1112/1011adjustedss.xls

and

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/1112/1112adjustedss.xls

As of 4 March 2011 there were 467 academies open in England. In total, 638 schools have submitted an application to convert to academy status. These are shown by LA area in lists updated monthly on the Department for Education website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/academies

Once on the website click on the link "Schools submitting applications and open academies" where the information can be found.

There are currently no free schools open. As of 11 March 2011 there have been 323 proposals to set up free schools, which are shown by LA in the following table.

*Sum of number of proposals*

| *Local authority* | *Total* |
|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 1 |
| Barnet | 3 |
| Barnsley | 1 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 2 |
| Bedford Borough | 1 |
| Birmingham | 21 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 5 |
| Blackpool | 2 |
| Bolton | 1 |
| Bournemouth | 2 |
| Bradford | 9 |
| Brent | 4 |
| Brighton and Hove | 7 |
| Bristol | 5 |
| Bromley | 3 |
| Buckinghamshire | 3 |
| Calderdale | 2 |
| Cambridgeshire | 5 |
| Camden | 3 |
| Central Bedfordshire | 1 |
| Cheshire East | 1 |
| Cheshire West and Chester | 3 |
| Cornwall | 5 |
| Croydon | 3 |
| Cumbria | 2 |
| Derby | 2 |
| Derbyshire | 2 |
| Devon | 8 |
| Doncaster | 4 |
| Dorset | 1 |
| Dudley | 2 |
| Durham | 1 |
| Ealing | 2 |
| East Sussex | 2 |
| Enfield | 2 |
| Gloucestershire | 1 |
| Greenwich | 4 |
| Hackney | 1 |
| Halton | 1 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 4 |
| Hampshire | 2 |
| Haringey | 4 |
| Harrow | 1 |
| Herefordshire | 1 |
| Hertfordshire | 8 |
| Hillingdon | 2 |
| Hounslow | 2 |
| Islington | 1 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 1 |
| Kent | 4 |
| Kingston upon Hull | 2 |
| Kirklees | 4 |
| Lambeth | 4 |
| Lancashire | 5 |
| Leeds | 6 |
| Leicester City | 3 |
| Leicestershire | 1 |
| Lewisham | 4 |
| Lincolnshire | 5 |
| Liverpool | 3 |
| Luton | 6 |
| Manchester | 2 |
| Medway | 1 |
| Merton | 2 |
| Milton Keynes | 2 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 1 |
| Newham | 3 |
| Norfolk | 4 |
| North Somerset | 1 |
| North Yorkshire | 1 |
| Northamptonshire | 3 |
| Northumberland | 2 |
| Nottingham | 3 |
| Nottinghamshire | 2 |
| Oldham | 1 |
| Oxfordshire | 12 |
| Portsmouth | 1 |
| Proposer did not specify a location | 1 |
| Proposer specified several possible locations | 8 |
| Reading | 4 |
| Redbridge | 3 |
| Rotherham | 2 |
| Salford | 1 |
| Sandwell | 2 |
| Sheffield | 2 |
| Slough | 2 |
| Somerset | 3 |
| South Gloucestershire | 1 |
| Southwark | 4 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 2 |
| Stoke on Trent | 3 |
| Suffolk | 6 |
| Sunderland | 1 |
| Surrey | 1 |
| Swindon | 1 |
| Tameside | 2 |
| Tower Hamlets | 6 |
| Waltham Forest | 5 |
| Wandsworth | 3 |

| *Sum of number of proposals* | |
|---|---|
| *Local authority* | *Total* |
| Warwickshire | 2 |
| West Berkshire | 1 |
| West Sussex | 2 |
| Westminster | 4 |
| Wigan | 1 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 1 |
| Wirral | 1 |
| Wokingham | 3 |
| Worcestershire | 2 |
| York | 1 |
| Total | 323 |

### Extracurricular Activities: Regulation

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans his Department has for the *(a)* regulation and *(b)* inspection of out-of-hours schools and clubs. [32044]

**Tim Loughton:** The Government are committed to making regulation and inspection less burdensome and more proportionate to risk. Out of school clubs provided by maintained schools are within scope for inspection by Ofsted as part of routine school inspection. For those out of school clubs run by other providers that register with Ofsted, there is a briefer inspection arrangement.

Local authorities also have the power to investigate settings outside of schools where there are concerns about children's safety. As well as general safeguarding risks, there is clearly the potential in environments outside of school for children to be influenced by extreme views which are counter to democratic values and we have started to look in detail at ways to stop children coming into contact with such views alongside partners including Ofsted and the police.

Out of school provision can include anything from teaching at somebody's house to a large registered charity. This provision is mostly unregistered and therefore not subject to inspection, but we have asked Ofsted to look at options for improving public confidence in this sector and Ofsted will be writing to the Secretary of State shortly about this.

### Independent Review Panels

**Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what account is taken of relevant *(a)* financial and *(b)* non-financial interests in the appointment of members of independent review panels in his Department; [44381]

(2) what measures are in place to ensure the avoidance of conflicts of *(a)* financial and *(b)* non-financial interests of members of independent review panels in his Department; [44382]

(3) what criteria apply in respect of the selection of members of independent review panels commissioned by his Department. [44383]

**Tim Loughton:** There are a number of possible routes by which someone might be appointed to an independent review panel depending on the scope and remit of the panel. Some appointments are made following a very light-touch process while others involve a more formal application and selection processes.

In all cases, appointees are required to observe Lord Nolan's "Seven Principles of Public Life", often described as "the Nolan Principles". The Seven Principles are selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. Further information describing the principles in more detail can be found on the Commissioner for Public Appointments website:

http://www.publicappointmentscommissioner.org/CodeofPractice/e0908a66106.html

### Local Education Authorities

**Jackie Doyle-Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education under what circumstances his Department is authorised to intervene in a local education authority under the provisions of Section 11 of the Education Act 1996. [45154]

**Tim Loughton:** Section 11 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on the Secretary of State, in exercising his powers to regulate the educational provision made in schools in England and Wales, to improve standards, encourage diversity and increase opportunities for choice. The Secretary of State pays due regard to those duties in exercising his powers of intervention under section 497A of the Education Act 1996 and under part 4 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Torbay (Mr Sanders) of 22 December 2010 on his constituent Mark Thorneywork. [43907]

**Tim Loughton:** Lord Hill of Oareford replied on 8 March.

### National Curriculum Tests

**Julian Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent progress his Department has made on developing the future Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 curriculum. [44693]

**Mr Gibb:** The review of the national curriculum is taking place in two phases. The first phase of the review will consider the overall shape of the national curriculum, and the new Programmes of Study for English, mathematics, science and physical education, which will remain compulsory at all key stages. We are currently undertaking a call for evidence and engaging with a range of stakeholders. Officials are also currently analysing international curricula in these subjects. The review will use this analysis, alongside the views of stakeholders and responses to our call for evidence, to inform our thinking on what a new national curriculum should look like.

### Obesity: Children

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues in the Department of *(a)* Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport and *(b)* Health on the effects of activity levels on obesity in children. [39013]

**Sarah Teather:** The Government take the issue of child obesity seriously and we will be publishing a document later this year to follow up the approach already set out in the White Paper "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England". This work is being taken forward by Government through the appropriate Cabinet Sub-Committee of which I am a member with ministerial colleagues from the Departments of Health and Culture, Media and Sport.

### Parents

**Neil Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Accredited Parenting programmes; and if he will make a statement. [44191]

**Sarah Teather:** The Department for Education funds the online Commissioning Toolkit, which presents a robust assessment of the effectiveness of around 100 parenting programmes in common use in England. The toolkit has been developed by the National Academy for Parenting Research and is hosted by the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC).

In addition to providing information to help local commissioning, the toolkit has guided the choice of parenting programmes for which 1,000 training places have been offered to practitioners by CWDC in 2010-11.

### Positive Activities for Young People Programme: Finance

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department allocated to the Positive Activities for Young People Programme in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [40605]

**Tim Loughton:** Table 1 shows the allocations made nationally by the Department for the Positive Activities for Young People programme (PAYP) in these three years. However funding for PAYP is included in the wider non-ringfenced Area Based Grant to local authorities, so decisions on actual spend on these activities are determined locally.

*Table 1: Positive activities for young people allocations within the area based grant (for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11)*

| | *Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP)* |
|---|---|
| | *£ million* |
| 2008-09 | 52.85 |
| 2009-10 | 74.50 |
| 2010-11 | 94.50 |

### Pre-school Education: Closures

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pre-school facilities closed due to a lack of available trustees in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [44522]

**Sarah Teather:** No central records are kept in relation to the number of pre-school facilities that have had to close in the last 12 months due to a lack of available trustees.

### Pre-school Education: East of England

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many free early years education places were provided in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Norfolk, *(c)* Essex and *(d)* Cambridgeshire in each year since 1997. [44928]

**Sarah Teather:** The Department publishes information on the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds in maintained, private, voluntary and independent providers. Part-time equivalent places are derived by counting children taking up 12.5 hours per week as one place, 10 hours per week as 0.8 places, 7.5 hours per week as 0.6 places, five hours per week as 0.4 places and 2.5 hours per week as 0.2 places.

Table 1 shows the number of part-time equivalent places filled by three and four-year-olds in Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire local authority in each year from 1997 to 2010.

*Table 1: Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1,2,3] filled by three and four-year-olds*

| *Position in January each year* | *Suffolk* | *Norfolk* | *Essex* | *Cambridgeshire* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 8,010 | 9,700 | 15,600 | 6,900 |
| 1998 | 8,160 | 10,200 | 16,900 | 7,600 |
| 1999 | 8,720 | 10,400 | 17,200 | 7,500 |
| 2000 | 8,600 | 10,800 | 17,100 | 7,500 |
| 2001 | 8,900 | 10,500 | 17,300 | 7,900 |
| 2002 | 12,100 | 13,100 | 23,800 | 8,900 |
| 2003 | 12,200 | 14,600 | 26,500 | 10,000 |
| 2004 | 12,900 | 14,700 | 26,700 | 9,900 |
| 2005 | 13,000 | 14,000 | 26,300 | 10,600 |
| 2006 | 12,700 | 14,500 | 26,000 | 11,100 |
| 2007 | 13,200 | 14,700 | 26,400 | 11,400 |
| 2008 | 13,800 | 15,400 | 27,400 | 11,800 |
| 2009 | 13,900 | 15,400 | 28,000 | 12,100 |
| 2010 | 14,500 | 16,200 | 29,200 | 12,600 |

[1] A place is equal to 12.5 hours (five sessions) and can be filled by more than one child.

[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

[3] Prior to 2004, information on early education places was derived from returns made by local authorities as part of the Nursery Education Grant (NEG) data collection exercise. From 2004 onwards, information has been derived from Early Years Census and School Census data.

*Source:*

NEG, Early Years Census and School Census

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 16/2010 "Provision for children under five years of age in England; January 2010", available on my Department's website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000935/index.shtml

### Pupil Numbers

**Lyn Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what mechanisms are in place to take account of high levels of mobility of pupils in pupil level annual school census data. [33174]

**Mr Gibb:** The school census collects pupil level data on a termly basis from state-funded schools in England. We expect schools to provide data on all pupils attending their school at the time of the census. The National

Pupil Database (NPD) is populated with data from the school census and other pupil level collections. It is possible to use the NPD to track pupils between years.

### Pupils: Disability

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the number of disabled children in each local authority area was in the latest period for which figures are available. [40986]

**Sarah Teather:** Information on the number of disabled children is not currently available. Such information is being collected for the first time and on a voluntary basis as part of the spring 2011 school census. Future collection and publication arrangements for data on disability will be considered in the light of data and feedback collected in response to January 2011 school census returns which will become available in the spring.

Information on the number of pupils with statements of special educational needs (SEN) or at school action plus in 2010 by type of need in each local authority can be found in tables 23 to 25 of the Statistical First Release, "Special Educational Needs in England: January 2010" which can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000939/index.shtml

### Pupils: Disadvantaged

**Mr Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his most recent estimate is of the amount that will be spent on pupil premium in each local authority area in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [42974]

**Mr Gibb:** The pupil premium for 2011-12 will be allocated to local authorities and schools with pupils that are known to be eligible for free school meals (FSM) as recorded on the January 2011 School Census, Pupil Referral Unit Census and Alternative Provision Census. Each pupil known to be eligible for free school meals will attract £430 of funding which will go to the school or academy via the local authority or the Young People's Learning Agency if the pupil is in a mainstream setting or will be managed by the responsible local authority if the pupil is in a non-mainstream setting.

Local authorities will also attract the looked-after child pupil premium for 2011-12 which will be allocated to local authorities for pupils who at some point in the year to 31 March 2010 were looked after continuously for at least six months, and who were aged four to 15 on 31 August 2009 as recorded on the April 2010 local authority return. Each pupil will attract £430 of funding which will go to the responsible local authority who will pass it to maintained schools for pupils who have been in care for six months or more in the year to 31 March 2011.

The amounts allocated in 2011-12 will depend on the numbers of FSM and looked-after pupils recorded on the January 2011 Censuses, so it is not possible to give precise figures for 2011 and subsequent years. We aim to extend the coverage of the pupil premium from 2012-13 onwards to pupils who have previously been known to be eligible for free school meals. We intend to consult on this, including the question of which deprivation indicator to use, in the summer.

Although it is not possible to give precise figures for 2011 and subsequent years it is possible to estimate how much schools and local authorities will receive based on the figures from the January 2010 Census. The spreadsheet containing these estimates, disaggregated by local authority, region and constituency has been placed in the House Libraries.

### Special Educational Needs

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has plans to update his Department's statutory guidance on access to education for children and young people with medical needs published in 2001. [32763]

**Sarah Teather:** There are no immediate plans to update this guidance which was published jointly with the Department of Health. However, I will be discussing the education of these children with Department of Health Ministers to ensure that our two Departments work together to support these children.

We wish to ensure that the children whose education is covered by this guidance receive the education that they need. Legislation introduced in the Children, Schools and Families Act 2010 and to be commenced in September 2011 will ensure that all pupils without a mainstream school place are entitled to full time education unless medical needs make this prohibitive or inappropriate. This entitlement will include pupils in hospital long-term who are capable of accessing a full-time education.

This legislation may in due course mean the 2001 guidance will need some minor amendments.

### Special Educational Needs: Academies

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what representations his Department has received on provision of special educational needs services by academies. [14004]

**Sarah Teather:** The Special Educational Consortium (SEC) is the key organisation which has made representations to the Department specifically about specialist support services for children in academies with low incidence or complex needs.

With the help of the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA), the Department has undertaken a survey of open academies with a high proportion of children with special educational needs (SEN) to inform policy development in this area. We also intend to continue working with the YPLA and the SEC on the issue of monitoring the impact of academy conversions on the provision of SEN services.

### Sure Start

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education which organisations his Department consulted in developing its policy on the future of Sure Start in accordance with paragraph 2.4 of the Compact between Government and civil society organisations; what feedback his Department has given to the consultees in accordance with paragraph 2.5 of the Compact; and what assessment he has made of the effect of that policy on local efforts to inspire and encourage social action and to empower communities in accordance with paragraph 2.2 of the Compact. [44445]

**Sarah Teather:** The reform programme for Sure Start Children's Centres policy is in the development stage. The Department is working closely with a wide range of civil society organisations with an expertise in early years, including charities, social enterprises and voluntary and community sector organisations, in accordance with the Compact.

The Department for Education and the Department of Health will be publishing a policy statement on the Early Years later in the year, setting out our vision for reform. We want a system that is led by the professionals who understand how best to deliver these services—and we will be working closely with experts in the early years sector to produce our publication, collaborating on a new vision for the crucial foundation years of each child's life. Further details on our collaborative approach to involving partners, including members of civil society organisations, in developing our policy are available on the Department for Education website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/earlylearningandchildcare/developing

### Sure Start: Bolton

**Yasmin Qureshi:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many Sure Start places were provided in Bolton South East constituency in 2009-10; and how many such places he expects to be provided in 2010-11. [44844]

**Sarah Teather:** Sure Start Children's Centres are a clear priority for Government—they play a really important role in supporting families with young children and intervening early to prevent problems from becoming crises. Local authorities have a duty under section 5D of the Childcare Act 2006 to provide sufficient provision of children's centres so far as is reasonably practicable.

As at 3 March 2011 Bolton local authority had a total of 18 Sure Start Children's Centres. Figures on the number of places provided in children's centres are not collected centrally.

### Teachers: Early Retirement

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many teachers took early retirement in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Norfolk, *(c)* Essex, *(d)* Cambridgeshire, *(e)* Bedfordshire, *(f)* Hertfordshire and *(g)* England in each year since 1997. [44930]

**Mr Gibb:** The following table provides the number of teachers awarded early retirement benefits from the Teachers' Pensions Scheme (TPS), whose last recorded service was in Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire local authority areas and for England, in each year from 1997/98 to 2009/10. Figures include teachers retiring from local authority maintained schools, academies and city technology colleges as well as those teachers in independent schools and further and higher education colleges that were covered by the TPS.

*Early retirements[1] from institutions covered by the Teachers' Pensions Scheme in each local authority area. Years: 1997-98 to 2009-10. Coverage: Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire local authorities and England*

| | *Suffolk* | *Norfolk* | *Essex[2]* | *Cambridgeshire[2]* | *Bedfordshire[3]* | *Hertfordshire* | *England* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997-98[4] | 110 | 160 | 390 | 190 | 240 | 450 | 17,460 |
| 1998-99 | 10 | 50 | 70 | 30 | 30 | 60 | 2,750 |
| 1999-2000 | 20 | 50 | 80 | 10 | 30 | 40 | 2,960 |
| 2000-01 | 40 | 50 | 50 | 10 | 30 | 80 | 3,740 |
| 2001-02 | 60 | 60 | 100 | 10 | 40 | 110 | 4,400 |
| 2002-03 | 70 | 80 | 110 | 10 | 50 | 100 | 5,110 |
| 2003-04 | 90 | 110 | 120 | 10 | 70 | 90 | 6,120 |
| 2004-05 | 80 | 130 | 170 | 20 | 50 | 130 | 7,570 |
| 2005-06 | 140 | 140 | 170 | 20 | 50 | 170 | 8,410 |
| 2006-07 | 110 | 150 | 180 | 30 | 50 | 190 | 9,400 |
| 2007-08[5] | 100 | 180 | 220 | 20 | 60 | 130 | 9,320 |
| 2008-09[5] | 120 | 180 | 230 | 30 | 70 | 160 | 9,820 |
| 2009-10[5] | 100 | 180 | 160 | 20 | 60 | 150 | 9,110 |

[1] Includes premature and actuarially reduced benefits. Include actuarially reduced benefit awards from 2000/01.

[2] Cambridgeshire and Essex local authorities were re-organised on 1 April 1998 and therefore the figures for 1997/98 are for the former local authority areas including Peterborough (Cambridgeshire) and Southend and Thurrock (Essex).

[3] Bedfordshire local authority was re-organised on 1 April 2009 and retirements are not available for the new local authorities in Bedfordshire.

[4] The effect of the change in the Teachers' Pension Scheme as from 31 August 1997 was that many more teachers took early retirement in 1997/98 than in other years.

[5] Provisional.

*Note:*

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

*Source:*

Database of Teacher Records and Pensioner Statistical System (PENSTATS)

### Teaching Methods: Finance

**Matthew Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will estimate the likely cost to the public purse of introducing one-to-one tuition for all people aged 16 to 18 years who do not have at least a GCSE grade C in *(a)* English and *(b)* mathematics. [46918]

**Mr Gibb:** Funding for the current one-to-one tuition programme for seven to 14-year-olds in 2010-11 is based on tuition in a school environment, provided by a qualified teacher, which includes 10 hours of tuition plus two hours planning time. The per pupil funding available for these 12 hours, plus schools' administration costs ranges from inner London area at £426.72, outer

London at £413.72 and £374.72 elsewhere. In addition £17 million is provided to local authorities to enable them to support delivery of the programme.

We know that the number of pupils in maintained schools who did not achieve at least a GCSE grade C, not including equivalents, at the end of KS4 in 2010, were 199,661 in English and 221,817 in mathematics.

There is no current tuition programme targeted at 16 to 18 years and the costs of any new programme would be dependent on the volume of tuition provided, as well as any costs falling to central and local government to support delivery of such a programme to this age range.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Ian Mearns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer *(a)* question 25142 tabled on 16 November 2010 for answer on 18 November 2010, *(b)* question 36851 tabled on 25 January 2011 for answer on 27 January 2011, *(c)* question 37249 tabled on 26 January 2011 for answer on 31 January 2011, *(d)* questions 39892, 39893 and 39894 tabled on 8 February 2011 for answer on 10 February 2011 and *(e)* question 41443 tabled on 14 February 2011 for answer on 16 February 2011. [44116]

**Mr Gibb:** A response to 25142 was issued on 15 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 180W. A response to 37249 was issued on 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1224W. A response to 41443 was issued on 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1229W.

Responses to the hon. Member's questions 36851, 39892, 39893, 39894 have been issued today.

### Youth Taskforce: Finance

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department allocated to the Youth Taskforce in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [40604]

**Tim Loughton:** The following amounts were allocated for the administrative running costs of the Youth Taskforce:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 1,800,000 |
| 2009-10 | 1,280,000 |
| 2010-11 | 440,000 |

The amounts of programme funding allocated to and managed directly by the Youth Taskforce were £15.3 million in 2008-09, £18.7 million in 2009-10, and £23.4 million in 2010-11.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Advantage West Midlands: Pay

**Gavin Williamson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was paid in bonuses to staff by Advantage West Midlands in 2009-10. [46057]

**Mr Prisk:** Details of the performance pay awarded to five senior staff at Advantage West Midlands (AWM), totalling £53,515, in 2009-10 is given on page 47 of the Agency's Report and Accounts to 31 March 2010 (HC252). A total of £131,928 performance pay was made to 331 AWM staff as part of the agency's agreed pay and reward system.

### Apprentices

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* apprenticeship and *(b)* advanced apprenticeship starts he plans in (i) Southend West constituency, (ii) the Southend borough council area and (iii) the Essex county council area in each of the next two years; and if he will make a statement. [45518]

**Mr Hayes:** The apprenticeships programme is demand led. The Government do not set targets for apprenticeships but provide funding and forecast the overall number of places that may be afforded. We rely on employers and providers to work together to offer sufficient opportunities to meet local demand.

This is underpinned by this Government's commitment that by 2014-15, we will have in place sufficient funding for 75,000 more adult apprenticeship places than the previous Government were providing.

### Arms Trade

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what proportion of weapons manufactured in the UK were exported in the latest period for which figures are available; [46204]

(2) what estimate he has made of the monetary value of the UK arms manufacturing sector in *(a)* 1990, *(b)* 1995 and *(c)* in each year since 2000; [46205]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of persons employed in the arms manufacturing sector in the UK who are engaged in the *(a)* manufacture for sale overseas and *(b)* the sale (i) in the UK and (ii) overseas of (A) arms systems, (B) other weapons and (C) munitions. [46206]

**Mr Prisk:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) does not have data on what proportion of weapons manufactured in the UK were exported. BIS has not made any estimate of the monetary value of the UK arms manufacturing sector. However, new defence export orders for the UK totalled £7.2 billion in 2009, based on information provided on a confidential basis to UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation by industry.

The Ministry of Defence's (MoD) last estimate, covering 2007/08, of the number of defence jobs in the UK dependent on their equipment expenditure relating to the manufacture of weapons and ammunition was 5,000 direct and 2,000 indirect. For the same period, the estimated number of UK defence jobs dependent on defence exports relating to the manufacture of weapons and ammunition was 1,000 direct and 1,000 indirect (with all figures rounded to the nearest 1,000 full-time equivalents). MOD do not have a breakdown according to the categories requested and no longer produce these statistics.

### Arms Trade: Exports

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what arms exports have been licensed for *(a)* Morocco, *(b)* Tunisia, *(c)* Algeria, *(d)* Libya, *(e)* Egypt, *(f)* Yemen, *(g)* Saudi Arabia and *(h)* Bahrain since June 2010; and what restrictions were placed on their use. [46961]

**Mr Prisk:** Information on arms exports is published in the Annual and Quarterly Reports on Strategic Export Controls. These reports contain detailed information on export licences issued, refused or revoked, by destination, including the overall value, type (e.g. military, other) and a summary of the items covered by these licences. They are available to view at:

https://www.exportcontroldb.berr.gov.uk/eng/fox

The reports currently available include information up to 30 September 2010. Information covering 1 October to 31 December 2010 will be published at the beginning of April 2011 and information covering 1 January 2011 to 31 March 2011 will be published in July 2011.

Export licences do not normally contain conditions regarding end-use.

### Business: Internet

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of online business turnover which is dependent on internet search engines as a means of achieving sales. [46758]

**Mr Prisk:** We have made no such estimate.

### Business: Regulation

**Alun Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what regulations affecting business have been removed by his Department in the last 10 months. [45932]

**Mr Prisk** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* We have included provision in the Protection of Freedoms Bill to repeal the following powers of entry:

Article 22 of the Distribution of German Enemy Property (No. 1) Order 1950

Regulation 24(6) of the Gas Appliances (Safety) Regulations 1995.

In addition:

On 3 March the Government announced they will amend the Companies Act to bring small company audit rules in line with the EU minimum, saving UK companies up to £40 million in unnecessary audit fees.

We plan to look at relaxing the audit and account rules for subsidiaries.

Early outcomes from the Employment Law Review include:

The launch of a consultation document on resolving workplace disputes, without having to go to an employment tribunal;

The launch of the Employer's Charter, which sets out in straightforward language the steps any employer can take in managing their workforce legally and fairly;

The establishment of the Sickness Absence Management review.

### Careers Advice

**Mrs Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the dedicated schools grant will be allocated to the all-age careers service. [36922]

**Mr Gibb:** I have been asked to reply.

The level of the dedicated schools grant in 2011-12 has been announced. Together with the pupil premium, this forms the level of schools budgets. There are no amounts within these totals ring fenced or separately identified for any purpose; it will be for schools to determine how they use their resources, including for securing access to careers guidance.

### Credit Cards: Fees and Charges

**Mr David Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to ensure that credit card transaction fees are proportionate to the cost of processing payments when buying goods and services. [47116]

**Mr Davey:** *Which?* have announced that they will shortly be submitting a super-complaint to the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) on card payment surcharges. We will carefully consider the OFT's response before deciding what steps to take.

### Departmental Public Consultation

**Alok Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many public consultations his Department and its predecessors have conducted in each of the last 10 years; for how long each consultation was open; how many responses were received to each consultation; and what the cost to the public purse of conducting each consultation was. [46588]

**Mr Prisk:** The information requested is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost. This Department publishes its consultation information on its website which can be accessed at

http://www.bis.gov.uk/Consultations

### Regulation

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many regulations sponsored by his Department have been *(a)* introduced since 24 November 2010 and *(b)* revoked since 3 February 2011. [44364]

**Mr Prisk:** Between 24 November 2010 and 2 March 2011, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) introduced 26 regulations through statutory instrument. Of these, only three impose a substantive cost on business.

We have included provision in the Protection of Freedoms Bill to repeal the following powers of entry:

Article 22 of the Distribution of German Enemy Property (No.1) Order 1950

Regulation 24(6) of the Gas Appliances (Safety) Regulations 1995.

In addition:

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Early outcomes from the Employment Law Review include:

the launch of a consultation document on resolving workplace disputes, without having to go to an employment tribunal;

the launch of the Employer's Charter, which sets out in straightforward language the steps any employer can take in managing their workforce legally and fairly;

the establishment of the Sickness Absence Management review.

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions his Department has consulted representatives of small businesses on the effects of proposed new regulations since 6 May 2010. [46141]

**Mr Prisk:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has launched 33 written consultations since May 2010. These are available for viewing on the Department's internet site at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/Consultations

BIS seeks views on these from businesses of all sizes and their representatives, including those of small businesses. In addition, Ministers have regular meetings with small business representative bodies, including my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills Entrepreneurs' Forum, which has met once; and the Small Business Economic Forum, which has met twice.

**Alok Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many regulations affecting businesses have been revoked under his Department's one-in one-out policy since his appointment. [46593]

**Mr Prisk:** Since the implementation of the one-in, one-out rule two domestic measures have been removed or recast to reduce the net cost to business up to 9 March 2011. There were also a number of measures implemented prior to the implementation of one-in, one-out that were designed to reduce the cost to business. Departments across Government are carrying out reviews of their existing stock of regulation, and further de-regulatory measures will form part of the Great Repeals Bill,

## Education: Biometrics

**Nicola Blackwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the number of further and higher education institutions using biometric systems; and if he will make a statement. [46751]

**Mr Hayes:** We do not require colleges and universities to provide this information. The Department understands a few colleges have installed biometric systems in their libraries. A recent snapshot survey carried out for this Department by the Association of Colleges showed that, out of the 16 colleges that responded, two had biometric systems, one in a library and one in a learning centre.

Colleges and universities are independent institutions and are free to make their own decisions about what sort of systems they install.

## English Language: Education

**John Cryer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what his estimate is of the requirement for English for Speakers of Other Languages courses in *(a)* Leyton and Wanstead constituency, *(b)* the London Borough of Waltham Forest and *(c)* Greater London; [45674]

(2) how many people in *(a)* Leyton and Wanstead constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Waltham Forest are eligible for a level of fee remission for English for Speakers of Other Languages courses; [45675]

(3) what his assessment is of the effect of English for Speakers of Other Languages courses funded from the public purse on *(a)* the contribution to the economy by those whose first language is not English and *(b)* levels of community cohesion. [45676]

**Mr Hayes** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* The Department has made no estimate of the requirement for English for Speakers of Other Language (ESOL) courses.

The Government currently pay 50% of ESOL course fees for all learners in England who are eligible for public-funded skills provision. Those on income-based benefits are eligible for full fee remission.

From August 2011, full Government funding will be provided for ESOL to unemployed people in receipt of jobseekers allowance or in the Employment and Support Allowance (Work-Related Activity) Group, where English language skills have been identified as a barrier to entering employment. We will also continue to pay 50% of ESOL course fees for people who are settled here. We will no longer fund ESOL courses delivered in the workplace.

The Government recognise the role of good English-language skills in enabling speakers of other languages to contribute to the economy and play a full part in society.

**John Cryer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of learners in receipt of fee remission for English for Speakers of Other Languages courses are in receipt of benefits. [45677]

**Mr Hayes** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* Near-final data for 2009/10 show that 116,600 adults that participated on an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) course were in receipt of fee remission. Of these, 71,200 learners (61%) received fee remission as they were in receipt of benefits.

We do not directly record in the system what type of benefits people are receiving when they take up training. We do, however, collect information on why a learner has received fee remission for any learning they undertake. From these data we can provide some information on claimants but this should be used with caution given it neither provides an accurate picture about the level of learners who are also benefit claimants nor what other learning and or benefit entitlements that person might also have.

Information on participation on ESOL courses is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 January 2010:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

### Export Credits Guarantees: Sudan

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills in respect of which projects in Sudan supported by the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) before 1980 debt is owed to ECGD. [45330]

**Mr Davey:** Details of projects supported by ECGD before 1980 are not available. I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 17 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 619W.

Records of the goods and services supplied under individual contracts to which the debts originally relate are no longer held.

### Institute for Learning

**Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has had discussions with further education lecturers and their representatives on mandatory membership of the Institute for Learning. [44185]

**Mr Hayes:** I met with representatives of the University and College Union (UCU), the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) and the Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL) on 15 February. One of the items we discussed was the Institute for Learning membership fees.

### Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received from the retail motor sector on the application of a European code of conduct to *(a)* car manufacturers and *(b)* franchised dealers under the Block Exemption Regulation. [47150]

**Mr Prisk:** I met the Retail Motor Industry Federation along with representatives of major car dealerships on 1 March 2011 and this issue was discussed.

### Northwest Regional Development Agency

**Alison McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) whether he has made an assessment of the effect on the economy of the Northwest Regional Development Agency's inward investment support function; [45799]

(2) whether he has made an assessment of the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* effect on employment levels in the North West of the transfer to UK Trade and Investment of the North West Regional Development Agency's inward investment support function. [45802]

**Mr Prisk:** No assessment has been made by this Department of the effect on the economy of the Northwest Regional Development Agency's (RDA) inward investment function. UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) is carrying out a procurement for a new national contractor for foreign direct investment (FDI). Within the procurement, UKTI is requiring bidders to develop a framework to deliver FDI projects. That framework needs to be capable of delivering broadly the same number of projects in the north-west as it received in 2009/10, the last full year for which figures are available.

*UKTI recorded FDI successes in the north-west*

| *Level of involvement* | *Number of projects* | *Number of new jobs* | *Number of safeguarded jobs* | *Total number of associated* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *2009/10* | | | | |
| UKTI and/or RDA involved | 136 | 6,556 | 5,132 | 11,688 |
| No involvement | 43 | 528 | 1,270 | 1,798 |
| Total | 179 | 7,084 | 6,402 | 13,486 |
| *2008/09* | | | | |
| UKTI and/or RDA involved | 114 | 4,565 | 4,931 | 9,496 |
| No involvement | 62 | 606 | 1,334 | 1,940 |
| Total | 176 | 5,171 | 6,265 | 11,436 |

Clearly the mix of those projects, and employment levels arising from them, will vary from year to year.

The impact on the public purse is yet to be established as the procurement process is not finished but the total cost of this national service will be less than the aggregate costs of RDA delivery previously.

### Nurses: Education

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many places for nursing courses there were at Northumbria university in each year since 2008. [47166]

**Mr Willetts:** The Department does not hold information on how many places there were for nursing courses at Northumbria university in each year since 2008. The numbers of enrolments to nursing courses at Northumbria university are shown in the table as an alternative, for the 2008/09 and 2009/10 academic years. Figures for the 2010/11 academic year will become available from January 2012.

*Enrolments to nursing[1] courses at Northumbria university academic years 2008/09 and 2009/10*

| *Academic year* | *Enrolments[2]* |
|---|---|
| 2008/09 | 3,795 |
| 2009/10 | 3,785 |

[1] Nursing is classified as a principal subject by the HESA Joint Academic Coding System.

[2] Covers postgraduate and undergraduate students of all domiciles enrolled on full-time and part-time courses, and students in all years of study.

*Note:*

Figures in the table are based on a HESA standard registration population and are rounded to the nearest five.

*Source:*

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

### Student Loans: East Sussex

**Amber Rudd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average student loan taken out in *(a)* East Sussex and *(b)* Hastings and Rye constituency was in each year since 2005. [46703]

**Mr Willetts:** The average tuition fee and maintenance loan paid in East Sussex and the Hastings and Rye constituency, in academic years 2005/06 to 2009/10 are shown in the tables.

*Average student loan paid, East Sussex[1] by academic year*

£

| | *2005/06* | *2006/07* | *2007/08* | *2008/09* | *2009/10* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tuition Fee Loan | n/a | 1,980 | 2,500 | 2,880 | 3,020 |
| Maintenance Loan | 3,530 | 3,690 | 3,620 | 3,600 | 3,660 |

n/a = Not applicable

[1] Based on address at the time of application. Amounts rounded to nearest £10.

*Source:*

Student Loans Company

*Average student loan paid, Hastings and Rye constituency[1] by academic year*

£

| | *2005/06* | *2006/07* | *2007/08* | *2008/09* | *2009/10* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tuition Fee Loan | n/a | 2,070 | 2,570 | 2,890 | 3,030 |
| Maintenance Loan | 3,680 | 3,880 | 3,710 | 3,640 | 3,680 |

n/a = Not applicable

[1] Based on address at the time of application. Amounts rounded to nearest £10.

*Source:*

Student Loans Company

Tuition fee loans were introduced in academic year 2006/07.

### Students: Fees and Charges

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will prepare and publish an equality impact assessment on the decision to increase the cap on student fees to *(a)* £6,000 and *(b)* £9,000; and if he will make a statement. [45994]

**Mr Willetts** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]*: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills published on the 29 November 2010 an interim equality impact assessment on the package of reforms to higher education funding and student finance, which included the increase of the basic and higher amounts to £6,000 and £9,000 respectively. The assessment is available at

> http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/higher-education/docs/i/10-1310-interim-equality-impact-assessment-he-funding-and-student-finance.pdf

**Mr Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect on the relative propensity of students to apply to universities charging higher level tuition fees of (i) outreach projects and (ii) paying an additional £900 in fees as outlined in the plans of the Director General for Fair Access. [46669]

**Mr Willetts:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has undertaken its own evaluation of various outreach activities and continues to monitor work done by others. BIS funded substantial monitoring and evaluation of activities which took place as part of the Aimhigher programme. The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) has encouraged institutions to develop their approaches to evaluation, and organisations such as the Sutton Trust have undertaken evaluation of their own outreach activities such as summer schools. Sir Martin Harris's report "What more can be done to widen access to highly selective institutions?" (Office for Fair Access, April 2010) summarised the difficulties in isolating the effects of outreach activities from other factors influencing higher education participation, but concluded that there was robust evidence on the effectiveness of a range of outreach activities. The report highlighted evidence which showed that

> "coordinated, sustained outreach works best"

and that schemes

> "targeted at groups of very able students identified as having the potential to succeed in a selective institution, have been shown to significantly improve the likelihood of participants both applying to and entering such institutions."

It also made particular note of the evidence that university summer schools

> "often delivered either in collaboration with Aimhigher or the Sutton Trust"

have been shown to be

> "particularly effective in raising the aspirations, and consequently the application and entry rates of their participants to selective institutions."

In his guidance to institutions, issued this month, the Director of Fair Access has set out his expectation that those institutions charging the highest rates and with the furthest to go in widening participation, fair access and retention, should be doing most to protect access. The guidance includes guideline expenditure on access to help institutions in drawing up their own plans. The guidance also sets out a greater focus on outcomes, including through targeted outreach. The Director of Fair Access requires institutions to submit annual monitoring returns reporting on their expenditure on access measures and their progress against their agreed access targets. Institutions are expected to evaluate the impact of their plans with a view to directing expenditure at those access and retention measures that are most likely to succeed.

## HEALTH

### Blood: Contamination

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of those who contracted HIV from contaminated blood products administered by the NHS are now clear of the virus. [46453]

**Anne Milton:** HIV remains an incurable infection and those infected do not clear the virus.

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will publish *(a)* each written submission, *(b)* each minute of meetings and *(c)* all other information he received from each of the expert working groups consulted during his Department's review of the treatment of those infected with contaminated blood products; [46454]

(2) in what form he received the submissions of each of the five expert working groups who contributed to his Department's review of the treatment of those infected with contaminated blood products. [46455]

**Anne Milton:** One expert group was convened to support the review and commissioned to provide a report. It provided scientific advice on the spectrum and impact of disease associated with hepatitis C infection. The expert group met once on 26 October 2010. A short preparatory paper and the minutes of that meeting have been placed in the Library. The expert group's report "Reviewing the natural history of hepatitis C infection" was published as annex 4 to the full report "Review of the support available to individuals infected with Hepatitis C and/or HIV by NHS-supplied blood transfusions or blood products and their dependants" (January 2011). The full report has already been placed in the Library.

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he made of the financial needs of those infected with contaminated blood during his Department's recent review of the treatment of those infected with contaminated blood products. [46456]

**Anne Milton:** The rationale for the new payments announced following the review is explained in sections 4 and 5 of the review report "Review of the support available to Individuals Infected with Hepatitis C and/or HIV by NHS-supplied blood transfusions or blood products and their dependants" (January 2011). The report has already been placed in the Library.

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people who contracted hepatitis C virus from contaminated blood products administered by the NHS have now been cleared of the virus while in *(a)* stage 1 and *(b)* stage 2. [46452]

**Anne Milton:** It is not known how many individuals who have received payments from the Skipton Fund have subsequently cleared the hepatitis C virus. However, evidence suggests that 15-25% of infected individuals clear the virus naturally in the acute phase of the infection, and drug therapy is able to achieve effective viral clearance in the majority (currently on average 55%) of individuals treated before cirrhosis has developed.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on *(a)* salaries and *(b)* pension entitlements for special advisers in the financial year 2010-11 to date. [46576]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The estimated pay bill, including pension costs, for special advisers in financial year 2010-11 is set out on the website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

The Department follows the policy on remuneration for special advisers laid down by the Cabinet Office, including relevant pension arrangements, in the 'Model Contract for Special Advisers' which can be found at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/special-advisers-model-contract_0.pdf

### Regulation

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions his Department has consulted representatives of small businesses on the effects of proposed new regulations since 6 May 2010. [46149]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Information on when the Department consults with representatives of small business is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Policy teams within the Department regularly engage with stakeholder groups including representatives from small business. This could be through public consultation, informal meetings and formal meetings such as working groups and stakeholder engagement exercises.

### Drugs and Alcoholic Drinks: Rehabilitation

**Andrew Griffiths:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many residential rehabilitation centres for *(a)* drugs, *(b)* alcohol and *(c)* drugs and alcohol there were in England in each year since 2005. [46472]

**Anne Milton:** Data on the number of residential centres in England are not available centrally.

However, each local drug partnership will have information on the level of local provision for drug dependency and up to date contact details for each partnership can be found via the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) website. The regional teams section of the site provides links to the details of each local partnership. This is available at:

www.nta.nhs.uk/regional.aspx

Commissioning of alcohol residential rehabilitation services is the responsibility of local adult social services departments. Adult social services are active partners in drug partnerships and often co-ordinate their activity for alcohol clients with the partnership.

Most, but not all, non-statutory providers of specialist residential drug treatment in England provide information on their services, on a voluntary basis, to a national online directory called Rehab Online, which is maintained by the NTA. Information from Rehab Online currently suggests that there are 121 residential rehabilitation providers which treat drug and alcohol dependency and 14 alcohol only services.

These data are incomplete because they do not include data from all non-statutory providers or any from national health service services.

### General Practitioners

**Bill Esterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the experience GPs have in budget management to be required under his proposals for GP commissioning. [47178]

**Mr Simon Burns:** It will be for general practitioner (GP) consortia to decide within the legislative framework how they carry out their functions. It is likely to be a smaller group of GPs who would lead and play a hands-on, executive role in a consortium. Consortia will also have a management allowance that they will be able to use to secure support for discharging their responsibilities from a range of sources: this could include support to assist with administrative and commissioning duties.

As outlined in the NHS Operating Framework 2010-11, primary care trust clusters will be helping the development of GP consortia through offering support in the development of their consortia, including support through a qualified or accredited senior finance manager.

**Bill Esterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential role of *(a)* nurses and *(b)* other ancillary health professionals in the proposed arrangements for GP commissioning. [47179]

**Mr Simon Burns:** We believe that effective general practitioner (GP) commissioning will require the full range of clinical and professional input alongside that of local people. Nurses, allied health professionals (AHPs) and other clinicians all have a vital role to play and a real opportunity to develop services and improve the health outcomes of their local populations. In community services in particular, nurses and AHPs will have a key role in supporting commissioners.

The Health and Social Care Bill places a duty on the NHS Commissioning Board and GP consortia to make arrangements to ensure that they have appropriate advice from professionals with expertise in health. Appropriate structures to ensure nursing engagement are already evolving naturally in the GP pathfinder consortia areas with, for example, clinical cabinets with nurse representation. We believe, however, that the board and consortia should have the freedom and flexibility to decide how best they exercise this duty, rather than rely on rigid prescribed structures.

## Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of implementing the European Directive on cross-border healthcare; [47006]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of introducing national contact points under the provisions of the European Directive on cross-border healthcare. [47009]

**Anne Milton:** The costs associated with the treatment of patients in other European Economic Area (EEA) member states will ultimately fall on the commissioning bodies in the United Kingdom. It will be necessary to consider how this will work in future in England as part of the national health service system architecture changes.

The reimbursement of the costs of health services obtained by the patient in another EEA state is capped at the cost of the same or equivalent treatment which the NHS would have made available to the patient under the NHS. The directive reflects the accumulated case law established by the European Court of Justice, which is already implemented in the UK by regulation.

Since patients are only entitled to seek reimbursement up to the cap in respect of necessary medical care where the NHS would have made the same or an equivalent treatment available to them, the money for this is in principle already in the system. Similarly, provider bodies will be able to charge incoming patients the full NHS cost of treatment.

There may be additional costs associated with the directive—for example, in connection with the set up of national contact points and in administering the reimbursement of costs. However, these are still to be quantified and should be considered in the context of the requirements already placed upon the NHS to provide information to patients and to have processes in place for managing requests for treatment overseas and handling reimbursement.

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of patients from other EU member states who will use NHS services in the 12 months following implementation of the European Directive on cross-border healthcare. [47007]

**Anne Milton:** The number of people who travel overseas for treatment is low. There is very limited information on the current levels of cross-border healthcare in Europe. Assessment is therefore not easy. Responsibility for these matters is devolved to individual primary care trusts in England (and health boards in the devolved administrations).

It is possible, over time, that the United Kingdom will see requests from more European Union patients for access to treatment in hospitals with particular specialist services, where perhaps there are capacity issues in their home countries. However, no provider would be required to accept any patient from elsewhere in the EU to the detriment of home patients. In addition, EU patients would be required to pay the full cost of national health service treatment in advance of that treatment happening.

## Hospital Wards

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to increase the number of single rooms available to hospital patients in the NHS. [46523]

**Mr Simon Burns:** All business cases for general and acute hospital schemes approved by the new Government contain 50% or more single rooms and half of these contain 100% single rooms.

The Department's guidance is that the proportion of single rooms in new hospital developments should aim to be 50% but should not fall below 20% and must be higher than the facilities they are replacing. The policy and design guidance for the provision of single rooms in mental health accommodation is 100%.

Each national health service trust makes an informed decision locally regarding the appropriate percentage of single room provision based on practical considerations such as site restrictions, affordability as well as clinical and operational limitations. In some cases, providing single rooms for all patients may not be clinically appropriate.

"The Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2011/12" states that:

> "Provision of additional single en-suite rooms needs to be included in considering capital investment to eliminate mixed sex accommodation, improve patient's privacy and dignity and provide increased isolation facilities for infection control."

## Injuries: Knives

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many knife wound injuries were treated in hospitals in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Bedfordshire, *(c)* Cambridgeshire, *(d)* Essex, *(e)* Hertfordshire and *(f)* Norfolk in each year since 1997. [46943]

**Anne Milton:** The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following tables. Data on knife wound injuries are not available by county. The data in the following tables are by primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA).

*Number of finished admission episodes (FAEs) where the external cause code was knife wound for selected SHA/PCT of residence, 2006-07 to 2009-10*

| | *East of England SHA* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *PCT of residence description* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
| Luton PCT | 56 | 53 | 47 | 38 |
| South East Essex PCT | 113 | 121 | 113 | 117 |
| Bedfordshire PCT | 44 | 60 | 67 | 49 |
| East and North Hertfordshire PCT | 87 | 108 | 94 | 88 |
| West Hertfordshire PCT | 81 | 78 | 77 | 81 |
| Peterborough PCT | 69 | 77 | 70 | 89 |
| Cambridgeshire PCT | 194 | 171 | 206 | 180 |
| Norfolk PCT | 149 | 153 | 131 | 141 |
| Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT | 30 | 41 | 43 | 41 |
| Suffolk PCT | 96 | 103 | 100 | 117 |
| West Essex PCT | 54 | 74 | 97 | 74 |
| North East Essex PCT | 74 | 51 | 60 | 63 |
| Mid Essex PCT | 79 | 103 | 83 | 155 |
| South West Essex PCT | 103 | 105 | 96 | 98 |

*Number of FAEs where the external cause code was knife wound for selected SHA/PCT of residence, 1997-98 to 2005-06*

| | *Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA* | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *PCT of residence description* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* |
| Norwich PCT | 34 | 25 | 39 | 44 | 34 | 53 | 48 | 43 | 48 |
| North Peterborough PCT | 29 | 32 | 34 | 36 | 35 | 38 | 63 | 47 | 41 |
| South Peterborough PCT | 17 | 19 | 22 | 17 | 28 | 19 | 32 | 23 | 29 |
| West Norfolk PCT | 28 | 30 | 17 | 39 | 27 | 30 | 32 | 36 | 28 |
| Southern Norfolk PCT | 29 | 28 | 31 | 29 | 22 | 27 | 29 | 42 | 41 |
| Huntingdonshire PCT | 16 | 19 | 22 | 16 | 16 | 24 | 21 | 18 | 23 |
| Great Yarmouth PCT | 18 | 28 | 24 | 16 | 23 | 15 | 27 | 21 | 17 |
| Cambridge City PCT | 39 | 32 | 39 | 34 | 39 | 30 | 42 | 43 | 53 |
| South Cambridgeshire PCT | 24 | 19 | 21 | 34 | 23 | 26 | 34 | 33 | 35 |
| East Cambridgeshire and Fenland PCT | 16 | 19 | 16 | 36 | 24 | 28 | 30 | 29 | 35 |
| Broadland PCT | 13 | 20 | 21 | 16 | 24 | 17 | 10 | 23 | 17 |
| North Norfolk PCT | 16 | 10 | 10 | 11 | * | 21 | 15 | 19 | 17 |
| Ipswich PCT | 34 | 26 | 32 | 45 | 44 | 30 | 44 | 41 | 31 |
| Suffolk Coastal PCT | 12 | 11 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 15 | 14 | 12 | 11 |
| Central Suffolk PCT | 13 | 11 | 7 | 19 | 10 | 15 | 8 | 12 | 12 |
| Waveney PCT | 19 | 15 | 20 | 30 | 15 | 13 | 19 | 14 | 14 |
| Suffolk West PCT | 33 | 31 | 35 | 43 | 49 | 54 | 31 | 52 | 43 |

*Number of FAEs where the external cause code was knife wound for selected SHA/PCT of residence, 1997-98 to 2005-06*

| | *Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA* | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *PCT of residence description* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* |
| Hertsmere PCT | 11 | 7 | 14 | 11 | 14 | 12 | 17 | 15 | 16 |
| Luton PCT | 34 | 20 | 17 | 34 | 42 | 38 | 46 | 41 | 53 |
| Bedford PCT | * | 8 | 15 | 15 | 27 | 24 | 20 | 27 | 31 |
| Bedfordshire Heartlands PCT | 24 | 21 | 13 | 24 | 32 | 39 | 26 | 36 | 31 |
| Welwyn Hatfield PCT | 19 | 6 | 16 | 11 | 12 | 17 | 22 | 16 | 17 |
| North Hertfordshire and Stevenage PCT | 29 | 38 | 33 | 38 | 30 | 32 | 36 | 40 | 40 |
| South East Hertfordshire PCT | 16 | 21 | 27 | 16 | 26 | 24 | 24 | 30 | 24 |

*Number of FAEs where the external cause code was knife wound for selected SHA/PCT of residence, 1997-98 to 2005-06*

*Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA*

| *PCT of residence description* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Royston, Buntingford and Bishop's Stortford PCT | 7 | * | * | * | 12 | 9 | 14 | 18 | 10 |
| Watford and Three Rivers PCT | 21 | 21 | 28 | 35 | 31 | 42 | 36 | 30 | 33 |
| Dacorum PCT | 22 | 17 | 19 | 29 | 20 | 24 | 30 | 27 | 23 |
| ST Albans and Harpenden PCT | 19 | 11 | 17 | 6 | 21 | 14 | 23 | 14 | 24 |

*Number of FAEs where the external cause code was knife wound for selected SHA/PCT of residence, 1997-98 to 2005-06*

*Essex SHA*

| *PCT of residence description* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tendring PCT | 14 | 19 | 11 | 17 | 32 | 26 | 36 | 31 | 25 |
| Epping Forest PCT | 15 | 12 | 14 | 22 | 21 | 19 | 30 | 36 | 29 |
| Southend on Sea PCT | 80 | 47 | 79 | 67 | 62 | 71 | 45 | 53 | 66 |
| Harlow PCT | 23 | 6 | 14 | 13 | 30 | 17 | 22 | 24 | 20 |
| Maldon and South Chelmsford PCT | 14 | 22 | 20 | 17 | 14 | 16 | 14 | 18 | 24 |
| Colchester PCT | 16 | 16 | 18 | 12 | 32 | 27 | 40 | 36 | 39 |
| Uttlesford PCT | 17 | 6 | 17 | 12 | 15 | 10 | 12 | 16 | 11 |
| Billericay, Brentwood and Wickford PCT | 11 | 20 | 19 | 27 | 22 | 27 | 23 | 27 | 39 |
| Thurrock PCT | 45 | 39 | 37 | 44 | 47 | 45 | 50 | 48 | 38 |
| Basildon PCT | 28 | 28 | 41 | 36 | 41 | 58 | 43 | 49 | 32 |
| Chelmsford PCT | 27 | 32 | 40 | 46 | 42 | 46 | 29 | 36 | 45 |
| Castle Point and Rochford PCT | 37 | 37 | 47 | 39 | 33 | 29 | 39 | 33 | 33 |
| Witham, Braintree and Halstead Care Trust | 24 | 30 | 28 | 32 | 27 | 39 | 36 | 32 | 38 |

*Notes:*

1. FAEs: A FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. Cause code: A supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects. Only the first external cause code which is coded within the episode is counted in Hospital Episode Statistics (HES). Codes in italics are those used to define assault. Knife wound: W26 Contact with knife, sword or dagger; X78 Intentional self-harm by sharp object; X99.- Assault by sharp object; Y28.- Contact with sharp object, undetermined intent. These four codes identify any sharp object, and therefore include (but are not limited to) knives.
3. SHA/PCT of residence: The SHA or PCT containing the patient's normal home address. This does not necessarily reflect where the patient was treated as they may have travelled to another SHA/PCT for treatment.
4. NHS Re-organisation: In July 2006, the national health service reorganised SHAs and PCTs in England from 28 SHAs into 10, and from 303 PCTs into 152. As a result data from 2006-07 onwards are not directly comparable with previous years.
5. Data quality: Hospital Episode Statistics HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
6. Small numbers: To protect patient confidentiality, figures between one and five have been replaced with '*' (an asterisk). Where it was still possible to identify numbers from the total an additional number (the next smallest) has been replaced.
7. Activity included: Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

*Source:*

HES, The NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care

## Lung Transplant

**Yasmin Qureshi:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients are awaiting a lung transplant in *(a)* Bolton, *(b)* Greater Manchester and *(c)* London; and how many such patients are over the age of 65 years. [46815]

**Anne Milton:** The number of people awaiting a lung transplant with postcodes falling, within Bolton, Greater Manchester, London, and the United Kingdom, over 65, is shown in the following table.

| *Area* | *All patients* | *Patients over 65* |
|---|---|---|
| All UK | [1]202 | 4 |
| Bolton | 0 | 0 |
| Greater Manchester | 15 | 0 |
| Central London | [2]10 | 0 |
| Greater London | [3]21 | 0 |

[1] Includes one suspended and 13 for heart/lung.

[2] Includes one for heart/lung.

[3] Includes one for heart/lung.

Source:

NHS Blood and Transplant National Transplant Database, as at 14 March 2011

## NHS: Procurement

**Bill Esterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of *(a)* the cost of healthcare commissioning by primary care trusts in the last 12 months for which figures are available and *(b)* the likely cost of healthcare commissioning under his proposals for GP commissioning in the first 12 months of their operation. [47170]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The impact assessment that was published alongside the Health and Social Care Bill in January details current commissioning costs and expected savings from general practitioner commissioning.

The total estimated commissioning costs budget for 2010-11 is £3.9 billion. Consortia will be authorised from April 2012 and will take on full responsibility for commissioning healthcare from April 2013. For 2013-14, the commissioning costs budget will be £2.7 billion, leading to a saving of £1.2 billion on 2010-11 costs.

The impact assessment is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_123583

A copy has already been placed in the Library.

## Nurses: Manpower

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses per 100 beds there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* West Suffolk hospital and *(c)* Ipswich hospital in each year since 2009. [46935]

**Anne Milton:** The following table gives the number of nurses per 100 beds in the areas requested as at 30 September 2009. Information on the ratio of nurses to beds for 2010 will be available following publication of the annual NHS Workforce Census on 22 March 2011.

*NHS hospital and community health services: qualified nursing staff in England, Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust and West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust per 100 "total available beds" as at 30 September 2009*

| | | *Number* |
|---|---|---|
| England | — | 246.6 |
| Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust | RGQ | 285.0 |
| West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust | RGR | 173.4 |

*Notes:*
1. The "total available beds" figure is the average daily number of open and staffed beds on wards open overnight in national health service hospitals in England. Figures are submitted annually on form KH03 by each NHS trust and provide a summary across all hospital sites within the trust.
2. Staff in post figures are as at 30 September 2009. Figures are calculated against headcount.
3. Figures are rounded to one decimal place.

*Sources:*
1. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census
2. Department of Health KH03

## Obesity

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of *(a)* children and *(b)* adults were (i) obese and (ii) overweight when measured by body mass index in (A) Bury St Edmunds constituency, (B) Suffolk county council area, (C) the East of England and (D) England in the latest period for which figures are available. [47026]

**Anne Milton:** Information is not available in the format requested.

Information on the percentage of overweight and obese children in England is available in the "Health Survey for England—2009 trend tables", Child trend tables, Table 4. Information is provided for children aged two to 15 in England for the years 1995 to 2009. This information is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/hse09trends

The proportion of children aged two to 15 recorded as overweight and obese by strategic health authority (SHA) for 2008 is available in Table 13.3 on page 327 of the "Health Survey for England—2008: Physical activity and fitness". The information is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/hse08physicalactivity

Further information on the prevalence of overweight and obese children at a primary care trust (PCT) and local authority (LA) level is available through the National Child Measurement programme. Information is available for children in reception (four-five years) and year six (10-11 years) for the year 2009-10. Information showing prevalence of overweight and obese children in these two school years by LA, PCT, SHA and for England is available at:

Tables 2 and 3 of the accompanying Excel file of the National Child Measurement programme: England, 2009-10 school year report is available at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/obesity/national-child-measurement-programme-england-2009-10-school-year

Information on the percentage of obese adults aged 16 and over in England is available in the "Health Survey for England—2009 trend tables", Adult trend tables, Table 4. Information is provided for adults in England for the years 1993 to 2009. This information is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/hse09trends

The proportion of adults aged 16 and over recorded as obese by SHA for 2008 is available in Table 7.3 on page 194 of the "Health Survey for England—2008: Physical activity and fitness". The information is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/hse08physicalactivity

All these publications have already been placed in the Library.

## Orphan Drugs

**Kwasi Kwarteng:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to endure that primary care trusts provide funding for patients to obtain access to drugs with orphan drug status. [45784]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Primary care trusts (PCTs) are legally obliged to provide funding to enable drugs positively appraised by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to be made available in line with NICE'S guidance. This includes drugs with European orphan designation.

In the absence of NICE guidance, PCTs are responsible for making funding decisions based on the needs of their local healthcare populations.

### Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

**Stuart Andrew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has plans to review the list of chronic illnesses which entitle those diagnosed with those illnesses aged under 18 years or over 60 years to free prescriptions. [45785]

**Mr Simon Burns:** We are continuing to explore options for reforming the current prescription charging arrangements, taking into account the financial context. In particular, we are examining the implications of the introduction of universal credit in relation to those current benefits that entitle the recipient of that benefit to free prescriptions. We are also looking at the implications of state pension age changes. We will make announcements about how these changes will be implemented in due course.

Currently all those aged 18 and under in full time education, and those age 60 or over, are exempt from prescription charges in England.

### Radiosurgery

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he expects the report of the National Radiotherapy Implementation Group on radiosurgery to be published; [47076]

(2) what progress he has made in establishing a national tariff for stereotactic radiosurgery; [47077]

(3) what the reason is for the time taken to publish the report of the National Radiotherapy Implementation Group on radiosurgery. [47087]

**Paul Burstow:** The National Radiotherapy Implementation Group (NRIG) established a subgroup to look at stereotactic radiotherapy (SR), also called stereotactic radiosurgery, in January 2010. It was tasked with reviewing the evidence for all possible clinical indications for SR, assessing existing levels of SR service provision and evaluating the equipment on the market that can deliver SR. It was asked to produce a report by December 2010.

The sub-group presented its draft report to NRIG in January 2011, and the final report was recently submitted to the National Cancer Director, Professor Sir Mike Richards, for his assessment. We expect the report to published in the next few months.

Regarding the introduction of a national tariff for SR, in "Improving Outcomes a Strategy for Cancer" we have set out our intention to investigate the potential development of a range of tariffs to incentivise high quality, cost-effective services, including for the newest radiotherapy techniques. A copy of the strategy has already been placed in the Library.

### Salt

**Mr Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to promote Salt Awareness Week; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such activities. [46802]

**Anne Milton:** Salt Awareness Week is this year being hosted by the hon. Member for Southend West (Mr Amess), as such no cost will be borne by the Department.

Action to reduce salt consumption is being taken forward with the food industry and public health organisations, including Consensus Action on Salt and Health as part of the Public Health Responsibility Deal.

### Sickle Cell Diseases: Children

**Bob Blackman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve *(a)* prevention and *(b)* management, *(c)* rehabilitation of strokes in children with sickle cell disease. [46880]

**Anne Milton:** Through the national health service sickle cell and thalassaemia screening programme all expectant women are offered screening for sickle cell disease and thalassaemia. In addition all newborns are offered screening for sickle cell. This allows newly born infants with sickle cell disease to receive a definitive diagnosis of their condition, ensuring that prompt and specific treatment can begin immediately. The Department has supported initiatives to improve the management of the condition including, asking National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to produce a short clinical guideline on the management of a sickle cell crisis in hospital, launching a national registry to identify patients with the condition and monitor care, and funding more NHS posts to increase the number of staff with specific expertise. However, planning local services is a matter for local commissioners.

### Tattoos

**Mr Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent by the NHS in each of the last three years on the removal of tattoos; and if he will estimate the proportion of such spending which was on convicted prisoners in each year. [46801]

**Anne Milton:** The information requested is not available.

### Transplant Surgery

**Yasmin Qureshi:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account the NHS takes of a patient's age when deciding whether a patient can receive an organ transplant. [46814]

**Anne Milton:** People are considered for inclusion on the transplant waiting list based on a clinical assessment of their suitability. There is no specific age limit and health professionals decide in each individual case. This includes a number of factors such as the person's physical health and expected life expectancy post transplant.

Rules for allocating organs are determined by the medical profession in consultation with other health professionals, the Department and specialist advisory groups. Depending on the organ, the blood group, age and a range of other factors relating to both the donor and recipient are all taken into account to ensure the best possible match for each patient. A computer program is used by NHS Blood and Transplant to identify the best matched patient, or alternatively, the transplant unit to which the organ is offered.

### Urology: Nurses

**Justin Tomlinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what meetings he has had with representatives of the specialist nursing sector to discuss the work of frontline staff in stoma care. [46217]

**Anne Milton:** Departmental officials are currently arranging a meeting with representatives of the specialist nursing sector to discuss the work of frontline staff in stoma care.

### Vaccination: Procurement

**Yasmin Qureshi:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether there is a non-electronic alternative to the online ImmForm system for the ordering of vaccines. [46712]

**Anne Milton:** From 1 April 2011, ImmForm will become the default process for ordering childhood immunisations. General practitioners may be able to make alternative arrangements with their local primary care trust (PCT) where the PCT is in agreement.

Business continuity plans are in place in the event of an Information Technology failure, but these will be invoked to handle exceptional situations only and will not be available as a normal vaccine ordering route.

## JUSTICE

### Corruption

**Catherine McKinnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what work he has undertaken in his role as the UK's international anti-corruption champion; and if he will make a statement. [46248]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** As international anti-corruption champion, I hold a key co-ordination role for Government in their international anti-corruption efforts. In this capacity I have consulted with colleagues in other Departments, with NGOs, and with other national and international stakeholders to ensure a coherent and joined-up approach to combat international corruption.

I have already visited Slovakia and Romania to discuss transparency issues and strengthening the independence and integrity of justice systems. I will continue to discuss these important matters with my colleagues in EU member states and countries applying for EU membership.

My priority is the implementation of the Bribery Act 2010. The UK stands alongside our partners in the OECD, the UN, the EU and the Council of Europe, in recognising that bribery needs to be met with robust criminal offences.

### Criminal Injuries Compensation

**Mr Nuttall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many claimants to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme were awarded the maximum award of compensation available in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [46536]

(2) how many cases the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority concluded in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [46621]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The number of cases CICA has resolved and the number of maximum awards (£500,000) they have paid in each of the last five complete financial years is as follows:

| | *Cases resolved* | *Including maximum awards* |
|---|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 67,597 | 39 |
| 2008-09 | 64,506 | 61 |
| 2007-08 | 65,248 | 41 |
| 2006-07 | 59,096 | 28 |
| 2005-06 | 62,073 | 14 |

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much compensation was paid out by the criminal injuries compensation scheme for each type of injury in each financial year since 1997; [46903]

(2) which injuries are covered by the criminal injuries compensation scheme; and what level of compensation is attached to each such injury. [46905]

**Mr Djanogly:** I have placed the information answering the right hon. Member's questions in the Libraries of the House.

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding his Department allocated to the criminal injuries compensation scheme in each financial year since 1997. [46904]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** As part of a Machinery of Government change, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority, which manages the criminal injuries compensation scheme, became the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice from 9 May 2007. Prior to 9 May 2007, the responsibility for the CICA rested with the Home Office.

The Ministry of Justice pays cash grants each year to the CICA for scheme payments and administrative costs. The following table shows the total compensation payments made by the authority from 2007-08 to 2010-11 for cases in England and Wales, funded by the Ministry of Justice.

*Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority*

| | *£000* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 (Outturn) | 222,391 |
| 2008-09 (Outturn) | 237,352 |
| 2009-10 (Outturn) | 218,531 |
| 2010-11 (Forecast Outturn) | 244,000 |

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on *(a)* salaries and *(b)* pension entitlements for special advisers in the financial year 2010-11 to date. [46573]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** I refer the hon. Member to the latest data release on the Cabinet Office website. This lists the names and pay bands of the special advisers in post at various times, and their actual salaries where these are £58,200 or higher. This is published together with details of the special advisers' pay ranges for 2010-11, and the total pay bill cost of special advisers in each period.

Please note that the estimated pay bill includes pension costs, and that the details of pension arrangements are set out in the "Model contract for Special Advisers".

These publications can be found at the following link:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

## Departmental Public Expenditure

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the Spring Supplementary Estimate 2010/11, HC 790, for what reasons there is proposed a reduction of £770,000 in non-voted expenditure offset by an increase in voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding from the Parole Board. [46822]

**Mr Djanogly:** It is Ministry of Justice's responsibility to manage the control totals set by HM Treasury and as part of the Department's operational responsibility and financial management, it works closely with its business areas in order to review forecast plans and in year expenditure and uses the estimates process to appropriately align funding to business area forecast expenditure. This is a business as usual practice and includes transfers to and from the Department's arm's-length bodies.

As a result of an internal review of forecast outturn plans, the transfer of the total £770,000 resource funding from the Parole Board relates to:

(1) an internal switch of £187,000 resource with capital;

(2) an internal transfer of £530,000 to HM Court Service related to Judicial training costs; and

(3) an internal transfer of £53,000 related to litigation costs.

The impact of this transfer in the estimate has resulted in a reduction of non budget funding of an arm's-length body, with no overall increase in the departmental expenditure limit.

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the Spring Supplementary Estimate 2010/11, HC 790, for what reasons there is proposed a reduction of £175,000 in voted expenditure offset by an increase in non-voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding to the Legal Services Commission. [46824]

**Mr Djanogly:** It is Ministry of Justice's responsibility to manage the control totals set by HM Treasury and as part of the Department's operational responsibility and financial management, it works closely with its business areas in order to review forecast plans and in year expenditure and uses the estimates process to appropriately align funding to business area forecast expenditure. This is a business as usual practice and includes transfers to and from the Department's arm's length bodies.

"According to the Spring Supplementary Estimate this transaction relates to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority and not the Legal Services Commission.

As a result of an internal review of forecast outturn plans, the transfer of £175,000 resource funding to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority relates to additional capital funding to fund the Electronic Workforce Management Project and the Business Continuity Project.

The impact of this transfer in the estimate has resulted in an increase in non budget funding for an arm's length body and with no overall increase in the departmental expenditure limit.

## Departmental Rail Travel

**Mr Godsiff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of civil servants in his Department are entitled to travel first class by rail within the UK. [47066]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Ministry of Justice suspended first class rail travel for all staff in October 2010, and staff are required to book all rail travel in standard class save in exceptional circumstances, supported by a business case and subject to approval by the Ministry of Justice's Value for Money Improvement Committee Secretariat or, in the case of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), to a director or CEO.

## Regulation

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what regulations his Department introduced between 9 and 28 February 2011; [47053]

(2) what regulations his Department revoked between 9 and 28 February 2011. [47057]

**Mr Djanogly:** Between 9 and 28 February 2011, the Ministry of Justice has neither laid nor revoked statutory instruments which have regulatory impact.

## Departmental Written Questions

**Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of written questions tabled to him for answer on a named day between 27 May 2010 and 9 March 2011 did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer. [46560]

**Mr Djanogly:** Between 27 May 2010 and 9 March 2001, the Ministry of Justice has answered 430 named day questions, of which 424 (98.6%) were answered on the day named for answer. 31 (7.2%) of the 430 were not answered substantively on the day named for answer of which 14 were answered by giving an undertaking to write and 17 stated the answer would partially or fully breach the disproportionate cost threshold.

## Fixed Penalties

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of each category of fixed penalty notices were *(a)* issued and *(b)* paid in each month since their introduction in each police force area; and how many on-the-spot fines have been issued in each police area since their introduction. [47023]

**James Brokenshire:** I have been asked to reply.

Data on fixed penalty notices issued for each recorded category of offence in respect of a vehicle are provided in the tables which have been placed in the House Library. The information provided is annual from 1997 to 2008 as the Home Office do not collect the data monthly.

Detailed data on payment rates of fixed penalty notices (FPNs) reported to the Home Office are not separately identified by individual offence. A table showing payment rates for all FPNs follows.

Data for earlier years can be found in the archive link on the Home Office website at:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/police-powers-archive.html#motoring

A fine can only be imposed by a court after due process and conviction, but from 2009 onwards police officers have been able to take deposits on drivers without a UK address in respect of a fixed penalty or fine they might be given. Data on the number of these imposed are not reported to the Home Office.

*Percentage of fixed penalty notices paid, by force area and type of notice— England and Wales*

*Percentage*

| | *Endorsable*[1] | | | *Non-endorsable driver present* | | | *Driver absent*[2] | | | *All notices* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Met. police*[3] | *Other forces* | *All forces* | *Met. police*[3] | *Other forces* | *All forces* | *Met. police*[3] | *Other forces* | *All forces* | *Met. police*[3] | *Other forces* | *All forces* |
| 1996 | 92.4 | 93.3 | 93.2 | 72.7 | 73.2 | 73.1 | 69.0 | 73.5 | 73.1 | 75.5 | 78.7 | 78.4 |
| 1999 | 93.8 | 95.2 | 95.1 | 73.9 | 72.1 | 72.2 | 65.2 | 72.2 | 71.5 | 73.2 | 79.3 | 78.7 |
| 2000 | 96.5 | 97.1 | 97.1 | 72.8 | 73.1 | 73.1 | 62.5 | 71.8 | 70.7 | 71.7 | 81.3 | 80.4 |
| 2001 | 97.8 | 98.4 | 98.4 | 71.4 | 72.4 | 72.3 | 59.1 | 70.2 | 68.9 | 71.6 | 83.2 | 82.2 |
| 2002 | 98.2 | 98.7 | 98.7 | 71.3 | 73.7 | 73.4 | 59.4 | 70.2 | 68.8 | 72.9 | 85.4 | 84.3 |
| 2003 | 98.5 | 99.1 | 99.1 | 73.6 | 71.0 | 71.3 | 60.5 | 70.0 | 68.2 | 74.2 | 88.5 | 87.0 |
| 2004 | 98.8 | 98.2 | 98.2 | 73.9 | 73.9 | 73.9 | 63.8 | 72.2 | 70.6 | 79.1 | 89.0 | 87.9 |
| 2005 | 99.2 | 98.5 | 98.5 | 74.0 | 76.5 | 76.3 | 63.7 | 72.5 | 72.2 | 91.2 | 90.2 | 90.2 |
| 2006 | 99.0 | 97.1 | 97.3 | 74.6 | 76.4 | 76.3 | 62.6 | 72.6 | 72.3 | 89.6 | 88.9 | 89.0 |
| 2007 | 97.4 | 98.0 | 98.0 | 71.3 | 74.7 | 74.4 | 67.1 | 73.0 | 72.8 | 88.1 | 89.7 | 89.6 |
| 2008 | 97.8 | 97.1 | 97.2 | 73.3 | 74.0 | 74.0 | 73.7 | 73.9 | 73.9 | 90.9 | 89.2 | 89.3 |

[1] Includes offences detected by automatic cameras (up to and including 1998) and all cameras (from 1999) for which a conditional offer of a fixed penalty was made and which can only be counted if made substantive, i.e. if paid.

[2] For driver absent offences, a notice to owner is issued in the event of non-payment which can act as a reminder.

[3] Metropolitan police.

## HM Courts Service: Finance

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget was for HM Courts Service in each financial year from 2005-06 to date. [46901]

**Mr Djanogly:** The information is as follows:

The budget for HMCS for each financial year is shown in the following table;

*HMCS budget year on year from 2005-06*

*£000*

| | *RDEL* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Nr cash* | *Non cash* | *Total RDEL* | *CDEL* | *AME* |
| 2005-06 | 774,202 | 193,963 | 968,165 | 107,186 | — |
| 2006-07 | 756,967 | 170,680 | 927,647 | 122,887 | — |
| 2007-08 | 857,309 | 219,286 | 1,076,595 | 167,290 | — |
| 2008-09 | 799,499 | 435,790 | 1.235,289 | 144,848 | — |
| 2009-10 | 762,028 | 233,070 | 995,098 | 163,340 | 220,000 |
| 2010-11 | 745,059 | 124,707 | 869,766 | 158,613 | 151,100 |

The resource budget (RDEL) comprises of both near cash items, for example staff salaries, judicial costs, rent, rates and magistrates expenses and non cash items for example depreciation and cost of capital.

The capital budget (CDEL) covers the costs of capital build projects.

Annually managed expenditure (AME) is a budget provided for expenditure that is highly volatile for example the impairment on the revaluation of property.

## Housing: Prices

**Justin Tomlinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what requirements the Land Registry places on developers relating to the provision of accurate information on the price of new properties. [46137]

**Mr Djanogly:** Land Registry is under a statutory obligation to enter the price paid or value declared for the registered estate, where this is practicable (rule 8(2), Land Registration Rules 2003).

The onus is on applicants for registration to complete their transfers, leases and applications correctly and to provide accurate information as to the price paid. If there is no conflicting information as to the accuracy of the information provided, the registrar would not normally query the price or value.

The price paid may not represent the full market value of a property.

If it is obvious from a transfer or lease that a discount has been applied, Land Registry will enter the price paid as the lowest or net amount.

If it appears from a transfer or lease that there may have been a discount or cashback, and the actual amount paid for the property is not clear, Land Registry will requisition for the lowest or net price paid and will enter that as the price paid in the register. Generally, however, Land Registry will not raise a requisition merely to improve the price paid or value stated information in its possession.

Land Registry will not enter a price paid if it is not ascertainable or may be misleading, for example where there are portfolio transfers or transfers of a share in a property. If, for example, the price is not specified but is dependent on provisions in documents Land Registry does not see, or it cannot be calculated at the time of registration, then no entry will be made.

**Justin Tomlinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what powers the Land Registry has to take action in instances where the registered price of a new property is higher than the sale price. [46138]

**Mr Djanogly:** The registered proprietor or another interested party (such as their mortgagee) may make an application to Land Registry to amend or remove the price paid or value declared entry if they feel there is a mistake or the entry is misleading. The application will need to include the appropriate evidence and will be considered in the same way as any other application for alteration of the register. The price paid or value stated entry will be that supplied by the purchasers or their conveyancer at the time of registration, and the registrar cannot change the entry merely because the value of the property has since fallen.

**Justin Tomlinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice under what circumstances a price other than the sale price of a property may be registered with the Land Registry. [46139]

**Mr Djanogly:** If there is no consideration or premium in a deed, Land Registry enters details of the value of the land as declared by the applicant.

Where a property has not been sold but there is a statement of value for fee purposes, Land Registry may make an entry based on that statement. For example: "The value as at (date of application)was stated to be between £50,001 and £80,000."

Again, Land Registry will not make an entry if it may be misleading for some reason.

### Prison Service: Manpower

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison staff have been appointed on the new prison officer contract in each prison since September 2009. [46915]

**Mr Blunt:** Information on the number of individuals appointed to prison officer 2 terms and conditions between 30 September 2009 and 31 December 2010 is contained in the table as follows. The figures include officer 2s who have since left the Service.

*Prison officer 2s appointed at each Prison Service establishment—30 September 2009 to 31 December 2010*

| *Establishment* | *Prison officer 2s appointed* |
|---|---|
| Acklington | 0 |
| Ashwell | 1 |
| Askham Grange | 0 |
| Aylesbury | 1 |
| Bedford | 9 |
| Belmarsh | 7 |
| Birmingham | 0 |
| Blantyre House | 0 |
| Blundeston | 0 |
| Brinsford | 0 |
| Bristol | 20 |
| Brixton | 5 |
| Buckley Hall | 4 |
| Bullingdon | 7 |
| Bullwood Hall | 1 |
| Bure | 31 |
| Canterbury | 0 |
| Cardiff | 4 |
| Castington | 0 |
| Channings Wood | 0 |
| Chelmsford | 11 |
| Coldingley | 4 |
| Cookham Wood | 8 |
| Dartmoor | 4 |
| Deerbolt | 10 |
| Dorchester | 0 |
| Dover | 0 |
| Downview | 0 |
| Drake Hall | 0 |
| Durham | 0 |
| East Sutton Park | 0 |
| Eastwood Park | 3 |
| Edmunds Hill | 0 |
| Erlestoke | 2 |
| Everthorpe | 0 |
| Exeter | 2 |
| Featherstone | 1 |
| Feltham | 16 |
| Ford | 2 |
| Foston Hall | 3 |
| Frankland | 5 |
| Full Sutton | 2 |
| Garth | 0 |
| Gartree | 13 |
| Glen Parva | 26 |
| Gloucester | 4 |
| Grendon | 0 |
| Guys Marsh | 5 |
| Haslar | 0 |
| Haverigg | 0 |
| Hewell | 17 |
| High Down | 7 |
| Highpoint | 0 |
| Hindley | 11 |
| Hollesley Bay | 1 |
| Holloway | 10 |
| Holme House | 17 |
| Hull | 4 |
| Huntercombe | 1 |
| Isis | 65 |
| Isle of Wight | 0 |
| Kennet | 0 |
| Kingston | 0 |
| Kirkham | 0 |
| Kirklevington Grange | 0 |
| Lancaster | 0 |
| Lancaster Farms | 0 |
| Latchmere House | 0 |
| Leeds | 0 |
| Leicester | 6 |
| Lewes | 0 |
| Leyhill | 4 |
| Lincoln | 5 |
| Lindholme | 0 |
| Littlehey | 87 |

*Prison officer 2s appointed at each Prison Service establishment—30 September 2009 to 31 December 2010*

| *Establishment* | *Prison officer 2s appointed* |
|---|---|
| Liverpool | 0 |
| Long Lartin | 9 |
| Low Newton | 0 |
| Maidstone | 0 |
| Manchester | 0 |
| Moorland | 3 |
| Morton Hall | 0 |
| New Hall | 0 |
| North Sea Camp | 0 |
| Northallerton | 4 |
| Norwich | 8 |
| Nottingham | 43 |
| Onley | 7 |
| Pentonville | 20 |
| Portland | 0 |
| Preston | 0 |
| Ranby | 5 |
| Reading | 6 |
| Risley | 0 |
| Rochester | 8 |
| Send | 0 |
| Sheppey Cluster | 113 |
| Shepton Mallet | 0 |
| Shrewsbury | 0 |
| Stafford | 1 |
| Stocken | 18 |
| Stoke Heath | 15 |
| Styal | 0 |
| Sudbury | 2 |
| Swansea | 0 |
| Swinfen Hall | 2 |
| The Mount | 2 |
| The Verne | 0 |
| Thorn Cross | 0 |
| Usk/Prescoed | 0 |
| Wakefield | 1 |
| Wandsworth | 22 |
| Wan-en Hill | 5 |
| Wayland | 7 |
| Wealstun | 27 |
| Wellingborough | 6 |
| Werrington | 0 |
| Wetherby | 35 |
| Whatton | 9 |
| Whitemoor | 0 |
| Winchester | 0 |
| Woodhill | 10 |
| Wormwood Scrubs | 17 |
| Wymott | 0 |
| Total | 851 |

[1] Includes officer 2s who have since left the service

[2] Where an officer 2 has served at two establishments their latest or last establishment is reported.

[3] Includes existing Prison Service staff who converted to prison officer 2.

## Prisoners' Release

**Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to ensure that those referred to the Peterborough prison social impact bond scheme are representative of all short-term prisoners released. [46919]

**Mr Blunt:** All adult male prisoners who are discharged from HMP Peterborough having been sentenced to less than 12 months will be included in the pilot.

There will be three cohorts, each containing 1,000 discharged prisoners. To measure the success of the pilot, each cohort will be assigned to a matched control group by the pilot's Independent Assessor, who will match every prisoner discharged from Peterborough to 10 other prisoners released from similar prisons.

This is to ensure that any success of the pilot, seen as a reduction in the number of times the Peterborough prisoners are reconvicted compared to the control group, can be attributed to the pilot's interventions and not to the characteristics of prisoners in Peterborough.

**Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has plans to implement further social impact bond schemes based on the model used at HM Prison Peterborough. [46920]

**Mr Blunt:** The Government set out in the Green Paper "Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders" their proposals to establish at least six new payment by results projects for reducing reoffending. These include two payments by results projects for offenders released from prison, focusing on those offenders who are sentenced to less than 12 months in prison, and two large scale projects for offenders managed on community sentences and those released on licence. We will work with providers to refine our proposals and complete the design of the projects by August 2011. However, the design of the projects will not necessarily be based on the social impact bond model used at HM Prison Peterborough but it will be one of the options for consideration.

**Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to ensure all offenders sentenced to 12 months or less take part in a social impact bond scheme. [46921]

**Mr Blunt:** The Government set out in the Green Paper "Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders" their proposals to establish at least six new payment by results projects for reducing reoffending. These include two payments by results projects for offenders released from prison, focusing on those offenders who are sentenced to less than 12 months in prison, and two large scale projects for offenders managed on community sentences and those released on licence. We will work with providers to refine our proposals and complete the design of the projects by August 2011. However, the design of the projects will not necessarily cover all offenders.

**Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the level of reoffending of prisoners who are not referred to the social impact bond scheme at HM Prison Peterborough. [46922]

**Mr Blunt:** All prisoners sentenced to under 12 months who are discharged from HMP Peterborough will be referred to the social impact bond scheme.

Individual prison re-offending rates for 2007 in England and Wales were published for the first time by the Ministry of Justice in the Compendium of Reoffending Statistics and Analysis in November 2010. This can be accessed at:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/compendium-reoffending.htm

The Compendium includes figures for offenders discharged from HMP Peterborough for sentence lengths of under 12 months or 12 months and more. From October 2011 these figures will be updated on a quarterly basis.

The Compendium includes re-offending rates for each prison in 2007 presented by prison category and prison sentence length of under 12 months. The re-offending rates provided have been calculated based on the prison from which an offender was discharged and ignores the time spent at other institutions during that sentence.

### Prisoners: Mass Media

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1055-6W, on prisoners: mass media, what consideration was given to consulting victims of crime or their representatives on the preparation of Prison Service Instruction (PSI) 37/2010 on prisoner access to the media; which persons and organisations his Department consulted in preparing the instruction; and if he will consult victims of crime and their representatives on the contents of PSI 37/2010 and amend it accordingly. [46843]

**Mr Blunt:** A number of internal and external stakeholders were consulted on Prison Service Instruction PSI 37/2010 Prisoners' Access to the Media, prior to publication. This was in line with National Offender Management Service policy on the approval and implementation of such instructions. The consultation process included NOMS policy teams with oversight of the statutory victim contact scheme. There are no plans to review the policy on prisoner access to the media at present or to consult the victims of crime or their representatives on its contents.

### Prisoners: Publications

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1056-7W, on prisoners: publications, with which publishers and newspapers *(a)* prisons and *(b)* National Offender Management Service hold subscriptions; and what the title is of each publication for which subscriptions are paid for its use in prisons. [46844]

**Mr Blunt:** The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) does not record this information centrally and to separate and collect it from local sources could be achieved only at disproportionate cost. Judgment on appropriate publications for prisoners is left to senior managers within prisons.

### Prisons and Probation Ombudsman: Public Appointments

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent in each category of expenditure on *(a)* advertising for and *(b)* recruiting for the position of Prisons and Probation Ombudsman; how many applications his Department has received; and when he expects an appointment to be made. [46834]

**Mr Blunt:** Advertising costs for the recruitment of the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman were £7,270.00 plus VAT. The value of the contract for executive search and related services is £23,000 plus VAT. Forty-one applications were received. Our expectation is that an appointment will be made by June 2011.

### Prisons: Construction

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much capital funding his Department has allocated for prison building for each year of the comprehensive spending review period; [46906]

(2) how much capital funding his Department and its predecessor allocated to prison building in each financial year between 1994-95 and 2010-11; [46907]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of damage caused to each prison affected by disturbances in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [46910]

**Mr Blunt:** Some £76 million capital funding has allocated to prison building for 2011-12 and £8 million for 2012-13. No capital funding has been allocated for prison building after this date.

Central records of capital funding for prison building before the Ministry of Justice was formed (i.e. April 2007) are not held centrally. Providing these details would require individual offices to be contacted and so incur disproportionate costs. Capital funding has been allocated for prison building since 2007 as follows:

| | *£million* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 363 |
| 2008-09 | 554 |
| 2009-10 | 433 |
| 2010-11 | 255 |

Central records are only held of disturbances at prisons where the estimated cost of repair is £250,000 and above. Obtaining details of repairs for less serious disturbances would mean contacting individual prisons and so incur disproportionate costs.

In the last twelve months the estimated cost of repair of damage caused during prison disturbances of above £250,000 is about £4.3 million.

### Prisons: Mobile Phones

**Karl Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been charged with an offence under section 45 of the Crime and Security Act 2010 since its entry into force. [47042]

**Mr Blunt:** Section 45 of the Crime and Security Act 2010 is not yet in force. It is due to commence later this year. There have been no instances, therefore, of people been charged with an offence under this section.

**Karl Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms he has put in place to prevent the use of mobile communication devices within prison. [47086]

**Mr Blunt:** We have implemented a strategy to minimise the number of mobile phones entering prisons, to find phones that do get in and to disrupt mobile phones that cannot be found.

The Offender Management Act 2007 made it a criminal offence to convey specific items, including mobile phones and associated equipment into or out of a prison or to transmit sounds or images from within a prison. The Crime and Security Act 2010 will also make it an offence, with a penalty of up to two years' imprisonment and/or an unlimited fine, to possess an unauthorised mobile phone or other electronic equipment or component element that can receive or transmit information electronically within a prison.

Robust local security and searching strategies are key to addressing the risks presented by illicit mobile phones. A range of technology has been made available to prisons to strengthen searching and security, including portable mobile phone signal detectors, body orifice security scanners (BOSS chairs) and high sensitivity metal detecting wands which can detect internally concealed items such as mobile phones.

We are trialling a range of signal denial technology in a number of establishments; however, at this stage we cannot provide much detail for security and operational reasons. The trials confirm that denying signals in prisons is not a quick, simple or cheap option. It is highly technically challenging, given the nature of the different fabric and layouts of prisons, the need to identify technology that is effective at denying signals within prisons without adversely affecting signals outside the prison and ensuring compliance with health and safety and regulatory requirements.

## Prisons: Violence

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many injuries were sustained by *(a)* prisoners and *(b)* prison staff in each prison disturbance for each category of injury in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [46909]

**Mr Blunt:** The National Offender Management Service records a variety of incidents that are related to disorder or disturbances at various levels of seriousness. These are set out in the footnote to the table.

The table shows details of the number of serious or minor injuries sustained by *(a)* prisoners and *(b)* prison staff in each prison disturbance for each category of injury from 1 March 2010 until 28 February 2011. Serious injuries include fractures, black eye, cuts requiring sutures and puncture wounds. The majority of disorder-related incidents are of a minor nature and are resolved quickly and professionally.

*Table 1: Breakdown of injuries sustained by (a) prisoner and (b) staff by incident category and establishment, from 1 March 2010 to 28 February 2011*

| *Establishment* | *Incident type*[1] | *Serious injury staff* | *Serious injury prisoner* | *Minor injury staff* | *Minor injury prisoner* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Altcourse | Concerted Indiscipline Active[2] | — | 1 | — | — |
| Altcourse | Incident at Height[3] | — | — | — | 1 |
| Ashfield | Concerted Indiscipline Active | — | — | — | 1 |
| Ashfield | Concerted Indiscipline Active | — | 2 | 8 | 13 |
| Aylesbury | Hostage | — | — | 1 | 2 |
| Blundeston | Incident at Height[4] | — | — | — | 1 |
| Brinsford | Concerted Indiscipline Active | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Bristol | Incident at Height | — | — | — | 1 |
| Brixton | Incident at Height | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Castington | Incident at Height | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Channings Wood | Concerted Indiscipline Active | — | — | — | 1 |
| Coldingley | Concerted Indiscipline Active | — | — | 1 | — |
| Coldingley | Hostage | — | — | — | 1 |
| Cookham Wood | Concerted Indiscipline Active | — | — | — | 1 |
| Cookham Wood | Concerted Indiscipline Active | — | — | — | 3 |
| Doncaster | Hostage | — | — | — | 1 |
| Dorchester | Concerted Indiscipline Active | — | 1 | 3 | 6 |
| Exeter | Incident at Height | — | 1 | — | — |
| Full Sutton | Hostage | — | [5]1 | — | — |
| Full Sutton | Hostage | — | — | — | 1 |
| Gloucester | Concerted Indiscipline Active | — | — | — | 1 |
| Guys Marsh | Concerted Indiscipline Active | — | — | — | 1 |
| Highdown | Incident at Height | — | — | — | 1 |
| Highpoint | Concerted Indiscipline Active | — | — | 3 | — |
| Hindley | Incident at Height | — | — | — | 2 |
| Isis | Incident at Height | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Lancaster Farms | Incident at Height | — | — | — | 1 |
| Lindholme | Concerted Indiscipline Active | — | — | 1 | 3 |
| Littlehey | Concerted Indiscipline Active | — | — | 2 | — |
| Littlehey | Concerted Indiscipline Active | 1 | — | 1 | — |

*Table 1: Breakdown of injuries sustained by (a) prisoner and (b) staff by incident category and establishment, from 1 March 2010 to 28 February 2011*

| *Establishment* | *Incident type*[1] | *Serious injury staff* | *Serious injury prisoner* | *Minor injury staff* | *Minor injury prisoner* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Littlehey | Concerted Indiscipline Active | 3 | — | — | — |
| Liverpool | Incident at Height | — | — | — | 1 |
| Moorland (closed) | Concerted Indiscipline Active | — | — | — | 1 |
| Moorland (closed) | Concerted Indiscipline Active | — | 1 | — | — |
| Moorland (closed) | Concerted Indiscipline Active | — | — | — | 1 |
| New Hall | Incident at Height | — | 1 | — | — |
| Northallerton | Concerted Indiscipline Active | — | — | — | 3 |
| Parc | Concerted Indiscipline Active | — | — | 1 | — |
| Parc | Concerted Indiscipline Active | 1 | — | 3 | — |
| Peterborough | Concerted Indiscipline Active | — | — | — | 5 |
| Reading | Incident at Height | — | — | 1 | — |
| Reading | Incident at Height | — | — | 1 | — |
| Rye Hill | Concerted Indiscipline Active | — | — | 3 | — |
| Rye Hill | Incident at Height | — | — | — | 1 |
| Shrewsbury | Incident at Height | — | — | — | 1 |
| Swaleside | Concerted Indiscipline Active | 3 | — | 10 | 7 |
| The Verne | Incident at Height | — | — | — | 1 |
| Warren Hill | Concerted Indiscipline Active | — | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Warren Hill | Concerted Indiscipline Active | — | — | 2 | 3 |
| Wealstun | Concerted Indiscipline Active | — | — | — | 1 |
| Werrington | Concerted Indiscipline Passive | — | — | 2 | — |
| Werrington | Concerted Indiscipline Passive | — | — | 2 | — |
| Wetherby | Incident at Height | — | — | — | 1 |
| Winchester | Incident at Height | — | — | — | 1 |
| Wormwood Scrubs | Incident at Height | — | — | — | 1 |

[1] Concerted Indiscipline is when two or more prisoners act together in defiance of a lawful instruction or against the requirements of the regime of the establishment.

[2] Active Concerted Indiscipline (e.g. prisoners actively attempt to stop staff from regaining control of a situation and may use violence).

[3] Passive Concerted Indiscipline (e.g. sit-down protest with no violence involved).

[4] An incident at height is defined as any incident taking place over three feet from ground level and includes where prisoners have gained access to safety netting.

[5] This has been the only occurrence which has resulted in the loss of life due to an incident of disturbance.

These figures have been drawn from live administrative data systems which may be amended at any time. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

These figures may change should any further incidents relating to this period be identified and reported to NOMS.

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which prisons experienced any kind of disturbance in the last 12 months; and what the nature was of each such disturbance. [46911]

**Mr Blunt:** The National Offender Management Service records a variety of incidents that are related to disorder or disturbances at various levels of seriousness. Details of these, for the period requested, are shown in the following table. The majority of disorder-related incidents are of a minor nature and are resolved quickly and professionally.

*Breakdown of disorder-related incidents by establishment between 1 March 2010 and 28 February 2011*

| *Establishment* | *Incident at height*[1] | *Concerted indiscipline (Active)*[2,3] | *Concerted indiscipline (Passive)*[3,4] | *Hostage* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Acklington | 1 | — | — | — |
| Altcourse | 3 | 1 | — | 1 |
| Ashfield | 6 | 4 | 1 | — |
| Ashwell | — | 1 | — | — |
| Aylesbury | 2 | — | — | 1 |
| Bedford | 4 | — | — | 1 |
| Belmarsh | 3 | — | — | — |
| Blundeston | 1 | — | — | — |
| Brinsford | — | 2 | — | — |
| Bristol | 2 | 1 | — | — |
| Brixton | 8 | — | 1 | — |
| Buckley Hall | 2 | — | — | — |
| Bullingdon | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Camp Hill | 12 | — | — | — |
| Cardiff | 2 | — | — | — |
| Castington | 2 | — | — | — |
| Channings Wood | 10 | 1 | — | — |
| Chelmsford | 5 | — | — | — |
| Coldingley | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Cookham Wood | — | 4 | — | — |
| Dartmoor | 1 | — | — | — |
| Deerbolt | — | — | — | 1 |
| Doncaster | — | 1 | — | 2 |
| Dorchester | — | 1 | — | — |
| Dover | — | 1 | — | — |

*Breakdown of disorder-related incidents by establishment between 1 March 2010 and 28 February 2011*

| *Establishment* | *Incident at height*[1] | *Concerted indiscipline (Active)*[2,3] | *Concerted indiscipline (Passive)*[3,4] | *Hostage* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Durham | — | — | — | 1 |
| Eastwood Park | — | — | 1 | — |
| Elmley | 7 | — | — | — |
| Erlestoke | 4 | — | 1 | — |
| Everthorpe | 2 | — | 1 | — |
| Exeter | 5 | — | — | — |
| Featherstone | 2 | — | — | — |
| Feltham | 5 | 1 | — | — |
| Ford | — | 1 | — | — |
| Frankland | 1 | — | — | — |
| Full Sutton | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Gartree | 2 | — | 1 | — |
| Glen Parva | 2 | 1 | — | — |
| Gloucester | 2 | 1 | — | — |
| Guys Marsh | — | 1 | — | — |
| Haverigg | 5 | — | — | — |
| Hewell | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| High down | 2 | — | — | — |
| Highpoint | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Hindley | 23 | — | — | — |
| Holloway | — | — | — | 1 |
| Hull | 1 | — | — | — |
| Huntercombe | 1 | — | — | — |
| Isis | 5 | — | — | — |
| Kingston | 1 | — | — | — |
| Lancaster Castle | 1 | — | — | — |
| Lancaster Farms | 9 | — | — | — |
| Leeds | 3 | — | 1 | 2 |
| Lincoln | 3 | — | — | — |
| Lindholme | 8 | 1 | — | — |
| Littlehey | 2 | 7 | 1 | 2 |
| Liverpool | 41 | — | 3 | — |
| Long Lartin | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Manchester | 3 | — | — | — |
| Moorland | 2 | 3 | — | — |
| New Hall | 2 | — | — | — |
| Northallerton | — | 1 | — | — |
| Norwich | — | 1 | 2 | — |
| Nottingham | 8 | — | — | — |
| Onley | 3 | — | 1 | — |
| Parc | 25 | 3 | 4 | — |
| Parkhurst | 3 | — | 2 | — |
| Pentonville | 2 | — | 1 | — |
| Peterborough | 5 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Prescoed | — | 1 | — | — |
| Preston | 1 | — | — | — |
| Ranby | 11 | — | 1 | — |
| Reading | 4 | 2 | — | — |
| Risley | 9 | — | — | — |
| Rochester | 8 | — | — | — |
| Rye Hill | 2 | 2 | — | — |
| Shrewsbury | 2 | — | — | — |
| Stafford | 2 | — | — | — |
| Stocken | — | 1 | — | — |
| Stoke Heath | 9 | — | 3 | — |
| Styal | 2 | — | 1 | — |
| Swaleside | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| Swinfen hall | 2 | — | — | — |
| The Mount | 1 | — | — | — |
| The Verne | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Wakefield | — | 1 | — | — |
| Wandsworth | 2 | — | — | — |
| Warren Hill | 1 | 2 | — | — |
| Way land | 4 | — | — | — |
| Wealstun | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Wellingborough | 6 | 1 | — | — |
| Werrington | 21 | 1 | 4 | — |
| Wetherby | 11 | — | 1 | — |
| Whitemoor | 3 | — | — | — |
| Winchester | 7 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Woodhill | 11 | — | 3 | — |
| Wormwood Scrubs | 3 | 2 | 1 | — |
| Wymott | 2 | — | 1 | — |

[1] An incident at height is defined as any incident taking place over three feet from ground level and includes where prisoners have gained access to safety netting.

[2] Active concerted indiscipline (e.g. prisoners actively attempt to stop staff from regaining control of a situation and may use violence).

[3] Concerted indiscipline is when two or more prisoners act together in defiance of a lawful instruction or against the requirements of the regime of the establishment.

[4] Passive concerted indiscipline (e.g. sit-down protest with no violence involved).

*Notes*:

1. These figures have been drawn from live administrative data systems which may be amended at any time. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
2. These figures may change should any further incidents relating to this period be identified and reported to NOMS.

## Sentencing

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people who have breached a suspended sentence *(a)* received and *(b)* did not receive an immediate custodial sentence in the latest period for which figures are available. [44935]

**Mr Blunt:** Data are not held centrally on outcomes of breaches of suspended sentence orders. However, data are available on the reasons for termination of suspended sentence orders during the supervision period of the order. These reasons include early termination for failure to comply with requirements or for conviction of a further offence.

Out of 43,783 suspended sentence orders (of all lengths) terminated in 2009, there were 5,392 failures to comply with requirements and 6,988 convictions for a further offence.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

## Speed Limits: Fixed Penalties

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much revenue was received from fixed penalty notices issued in respect of speeding offences in each police force area in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [46941]

**James Brokenshire:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested on the amount of revenue received from fixed penalty notices for speeding offences is not collected by the Home Office. However, data on the number of fixed penalty notices issued for speeding by police force area are provided in table A for years 1997 to 2008. The fixed penalty for speeding is £60 but in these data whether the fixed penalties has been paid is not identified.

Data on fixed penalty notices for 2009 are due to be published in April 2011.

*Number of fixed penalty notices issued for speed limit offences by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2008*

|  |  |  |  |  | *Total FPNS for speed limit offences* |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* |
| Avon and Somerset | 7,294 | 18,327 | 25,897 | 36,122 | 30,339 | 53,846 |
| Bedfordshire | 8,700 | 10,255 | 18,008 | 16,707 | 13,415 | 40,338 |
| Cambridgeshire | 14,837 | 13,818 | 14,562 | 8,708 | 6,777 | 15,435 |
| Cheshire | 10,765 | 23,196 | 16,393 | 15,356 | 16,694 | 13,578 |
| Cleveland | 3,239 | 10,734 | 7,717 | 23,228 | 24,160 | 25,264 |
| Cumbria | 4,882 | 4,919 | 5,058 | 4,103 | 3,649 | 5,797 |
| Derbyshire | 17,438 | 22,785 | 21,771 | 18,291 | 24,949 | 71,965 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 36,150 | 32,757 | 33,682 | 28,091 | 33,389 | 31,144 |
| Dorset | 11,172 | 14,738 | 14,815 | 18,305 | 19,605 | 18,686 |
| Durham | 3,213 | 3,930 | 4,586 | 9,180 | 14,156 | 7,697 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 6,708 | 9,272 | 8,222 | 8,840 | 6,868 | 12,343 |
| Essex | 48,123 | 19,282 | 38,097 | 56,010 | 87,038 | 101,063 |
| Gloucestershire | 6,260 | 8,714 | 6,268 | 5,781 | 4,097 | 3,898 |
| Greater Manchester | 54,694 | 51,145 | 64,318 | 59,765 | 50,448 | 35,861 |
| Gwent | 5,263 | 4,214 | 2,050 | 16,518 | 13,209 | 2,960 |
| Hampshire | 27,460 | 34,555 | 46,709 | 27,566 | 28,995 | 31,867 |
| Hertfordshire | 17,604 | 14,063 | 25,687 | 23,956 | 23,474 | 23,203 |
| Humberside | 9,735 | 13,759 | 12,671 | 22,209 | 17,228 | 13,399 |
| Kent | 28,706 | 28,009 | 18,954 | 24,617 | 23,044 | 36,645 |
| Lancashire | 23,813 | 32,810 | 35,335 | 29,683 | 27,993 | 158,163 |
| Leicestershire | 5,612 | 9,729 | 8,791 | 8,094 | 7,750 | 17,903 |
| Lincolnshire | 6,588 | 12,368 | 17,913 | 26,319 | 31,487 | 27,490 |
| London, City of | 520 | 907 | 2,423 | 353 | 713 | 4,782 |
| Merseyside | 11,808 | 15,373 | 15,968 | 7,385 | 4,100 | 6,484 |
| Metropolitan Police | 45,488 | 36,690 | 32,061 | 54,843 | 58,412 | 53,334 |
| Norfolk | 4,895 | 5,379 | 9,267 | 4,783 | 5,166 | 17,116 |
| North Wales | 9,146 | 9,920 | 11,141 | 16,980 | 20,245 | 44,459 |
| North Yorkshire | 11,679 | 9,924 | 6,908 | 5,295 | 7,436 | 5,412 |
| Northamptonshire | 3,722 | 8,836 | 7,772 | 34,809 | 79,627 | 60,459 |
| Northumbria | 25,693 | 34,918 | 37,472 | 24,265 | 40,726 | 41,050 |
| Nottinghamshire | 4,625 | 6,289 | 5,512 | 23,766 | 24,556 | 35,771 |
| South Wales | 22,227 | 27,464 | 28,850 | 54,383 | 75,224 | 61,948 |
| South Yorkshire | 39,062 | 31,585 | 23,544 | 20,987 | 21,566 | 16,096 |
| Staffordshire | 22,552 | 22,044 | 14,656 | 13,969 | 20,372 | 29,094 |
| Suffolk | 7,271 | 12,640 | 18,088 | 12,596 | 12,416 | 9,477 |
| Surrey | 5,340 | 10,252 | 11,035 | 12,072 | 10,424 | 6,052 |
| Sussex | 25,124 | 24,862 | 22,370 | 24,990 | 18,513 | 23,550 |
| Thames Valley | 53,285 | 62,827 | 46,034 | 71,888 | 154,524 | 121,677 |
| Warwickshire | 1,857 | 2,510 | 2,745 | 2,099 | 3,136 | 14,999 |
| West Mercia | 15,392 | 15,502 | 18,478 | 22,150 | 30,504 | 29,098 |
| West Midlands | 9,378 | 11,586 | 9,546 | 5,668 | 15,806 | 17,762 |
| West Yorkshire | 24,103 | 29,635 | 24,791 | 24,595 | 20,937 | 32,126 |
| Wiltshire | 11,330 | 8,494 | 9,319 | 16,351 | 17,941 | 27,975 |
| England and Wales | 712,753 | 781,016 | 805,484 | 941,676 | 1,151,108 | 1,407,266 |

|  |  |  |  |  | *Total FPNS for speed limit offences* |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
| Avon and Somerset | 99,405 | 85,331 | 67,933 | 52,606 | 57,746 | 53,069 |
| Bedfordshire | 66,709 | 56,762 | 44,736 | 48,407 | 30,029 | 19,884 |
| Cambridgeshire | 28,510 | 19,802 | 44,997 | 20,502 | 25,371 | 22,548 |
| Cheshire | 29,564 | 40,306 | 25,056 | 28,570 | 26,992 | 23,032 |
| Cleveland | 24,729 | 19,939 | 24,912 | 19,044 | 13,951 | 11,017 |

| *Police force* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *Total FPNS for speed limit offences*<br>*2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cumbria | 24,692 | 31,531 | 27,441 | 32,023 | 29,096 | 30,774 |
| Derbyshire | 44,517 | 44,412 | 30,905 | 31,484 | 22,389 | 16,652 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 63,916 | 91,662 | 53,474 | 42,467 | 62,549 | 49,234 |
| Dorset | 63,185 | 71,832 | 79,522 | 51,599 | 36,900 | 26,086 |
| Durham | 6,538 | 4,184 | 2,816 | 2,817 | 3,138 | 3,531 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 3,072 | 2,221 | 1,435 | 1,054 | 1,654 | 1,713 |
| Essex | 66,281 | 68,852 | 85,745 | 60,705 | 44,796 | 25,956 |
| Gloucestershire | 3,139 | 4,913 | 10,849 | 13,406 | 9,380 | 7,547 |
| Greater Manchester | 44,903 | 43,531 | 59,478 | 60,283 | 42,609 | 37,330 |
| Gwent | 1,013 | 859 | 506 | 531 | 507 | 384 |
| Hampshire | 45,324 | 52,587 | 58,750 | 49,404 | 49,324 | 36,719 |
| Hertfordshire | 28,696 | 61,637 | 49,738 | 81,805 | 41,593 | 34,945 |
| Humberside | 25,755 | 52,288 | 48,494 | 36,718 | 34,184 | 21,993 |
| Kent | 54,594 | 66,661 | 53,289 | 47,179 | 51,438 | 25,208 |
| Lancashire | 96,660 | 63,233 | 63,568 | 57,658 | 55,167 | 41,678 |
| Leicestershire | 45,417 | 26,357 | 7,281 | 24,605 | 20,634 | 15,506 |
| Lincolnshire | 27,970 | 29,258 | 32,613 | 25,750 | 24,849 | 26,834 |
| London, City of | 4,864 | 6,358 | 10,275 | 5,089 | 2,785 | 3,082 |
| Merseyside | 8,883 | 8,058 | 18,411 | 33,049 | 26,601 | 34,894 |
| Metropolitan Police | 80,213 | 104,920 | 126,426 | 102,482 | 73,738 | 94,955 |
| Norfolk | 31,640 | 26,938 | 25,117 | 25,346 | 24,878 | 20,359 |
| North Wales | 61,645 | 51,069 | 74,485 | 59,491 | 42,537 | 29,327 |
| North Yorkshire | 5,836 | 5,971 | 4,923 | 51,880 | 38,504 | 39,410 |
| Northamptonshire | 49,902 | 49,108 | 47,866 | 5,256 | 7,748 | 7,779 |
| Northumbria | 69,018 | 94,319 | 55,708 | 42,242 | 25,283 | 14,716 |
| Nottinghamshire | 53,276 | 53,188 | 53,696 | 42,917 | 34,750 | 32,975 |
| South Wales | 65,852 | 45,343 | 45,189 | 33,208 | 40,426 | 48,453 |
| South Yorkshire | 51,418 | 42,635 | 65,352 | 51,462 | 37,911 | 8,014 |
| Staffordshire | 47,565 | 41,249 | 46,219 | 50,823 | 31,547 | 35,269 |
| Suffolk | 16,606 | 40,847 | 40,029 | 34,442 | 30,378 | 34,678 |
| Surrey | 7,057 | 8,200 | 17,509 | 39,520 | 28,941 | 27,366 |
| Sussex | 60,364 | 45,619 | 58,606 | 48,627 | 46,832 | 37,632 |
| Thames Valley | 123,586 | 92,834 | 97,049 | 137,312 | 54,385 | 53,909 |
| Warwickshire | 27,737 | 34,206 | 40,401 | 30,316 | 27,468 | 18,794 |
| West Mercia | 78,408 | 57,844 | 53,711 | 46,213 | 54,975 | 52,109 |
| West Midlands | 43,542 | 58,052 | 46,612 | 44,497 | 45,357 | 34,620 |
| West Yorkshire | 70,011 | 68,827 | 66,031 | 49,528 | 41,386 | 37,177 |
| Wiltshire | 42,738 | 50,641 | 52,412 | 51,458 | 36,959 | 30,338 |
| England and Wales | 1,894,750 | 1,924,384 | 1,919,565 | 1,773,775 | 1,437,685 | 1,227,496 |

## Young Offenders

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what dates he has met the Secretary of State for *(a)* Education and *(b)* Communities and Local Government to discuss the resettlement of young offenders since May 2010. [46902]

**Mr Blunt:** I met the Under-Secretary of State for Education, the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham (Tim Loughton), on 7 September 2010 and we will be meeting again on 30 March to discuss youth justice issues, including resettlement of young offenders.

I have yet to meet with Ministers in the Department for Communities and Local Government but my officials have been working closely with colleagues there, on the implications of the localism agenda for locally devolved Youth Offending Teams.

We recognise that young people leaving custody are some of the most vulnerable young people in our society and that their effective resettlement is critical to breaking the cycle of offending. Young offenders have complex and wide ranging problems which require intensive support and access to services which can directly address their offending behaviour.

The recent Green Paper proposals set out how we are considering introducing elements of payment by results into youth justice to incentivise local authorities to reduce youth offending, of which resettlement is a key part.

## Young Offenders: Sentencing

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* 15, *(b)* 16 and *(c)* 17-year-olds were given custodial sentences in each police force area since 2007; and what the average length of sentence was. [46833]

**Mr Blunt:** The number of defendants aged 15 to 17 sentenced to an immediate custodial sentence and the average custodial sentence length and other sentences at all courts by police force area, England and Wales, 2007-09 (latest available) is provided in the tables.

Data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring of 2011.

*Number of defendants aged 15 to 17 given an immediate custodial sentence, average custodial sentence length[1] and other sentences at all courts, by police force area, England & Wales, 2007-09[2, 3]*

| | 2007 | | | | 2008[5] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force area and age* | *Immediate custody* | *Average custodial sentence length (months)* | *Other sentences[4]* | *Sentenced* | *Immediate custody* | *Average custodial sentence length (months)* | *Other sentences[4]* | *Sentenced* |
| *Avon and Somerset* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 28 | 8.3 | 454 | 482 | 18 | 8.8 | 349 | 367 |
| 16 | 27 | 7.8 | 567 | 594 | 32 | 8.8 | 483 | 515 |
| 17 | 54 | 8.2 | 729 | 783 | 55 | 15.1 | 669 | 724 |
| *Bedfordshire* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 8 | 8.5 | 134 | 142 | 6 | 8.7 | 130 | 136 |
| 16 | 24 | 8.5 | 215 | 239 | 17 | 16.9 | 156 | 173 |
| 17 | 31 | 10.3 | 223 | 254 | 30 | 16.0 | 231 | 261 |
| *Cambridgeshire* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 11 | 6.2 | 204 | 215 | 12 | 10.3 | 189 | 201 |
| 16 | 25 | 6.5 | 283 | 308 | 23 | 11.0 | 274 | 297 |
| 17 | 26 | 8.1 | 328 | 354 | 31 | 14.4 | 286 | 317 |
| *Cheshire* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 18 | 6.8 | 313 | 331 | 15 | 11.2 | 272 | 287 |
| 16 | 42 | 9.1 | 401 | 443 | 28 | 8.2 | 358 | 386 |
| 17 | 46 | 11.1 | 547 | 593 | 47 | 12.9 | 470 | 517 |
| *City of London* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | — | — |
| 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | — | — |
| 17 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 8 |
| *Cleveland* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 7 | 6.9 | 309 | 316 | 9 | 9.7 | 252 | 261 |
| 16 | 20 | 8.0 | 336 | 356 | 15 | 13.6 | 406 | 421 |
| 17 | 30 | 12.4 | 410 | 440 | 42 | 11.5 | 444 | 486 |
| *Cumbria* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 15 | 4.5 | 295 | 310 | 8 | 8.8 | 252 | 260 |
| 16 | 23 | 7.9 | 341 | 364 | 20 | 7.8 | 311 | 331 |
| 17 | 30 | 6.8 | 351 | 381 | 33 | 7.8 | 363 | 396 |
| *Derbyshire* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 22 | 5.9 | 335 | 357 | 35 | 6.1 | 301 | 336 |
| 16 | 28 | 9.7 | 411 | 439 | 24 | 8.9 | 354 | 378 |
| 17 | 66 | 9.6 | 542 | 608 | 49 | 10.9 | 518 | 567 |
| *Devon and Cornwall* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 2 | 4.0 | 439 | 441 | 5 | 14.0 | 382 | 387 |
| 16 | 2 | 9.0 | 618 | 620 | 13 | 17.4 | 545 | 558 |
| 17 | 17 | 24.7 | 747 | 764 | 25 | 14.4 | 747 | 772 |
| *Dorset* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | — | — | 168 | 168 | 1 | 72.0 | 132 | 133 |
| 16 | 7 | 5.7 | 265 | 272 | 2 | 36.0 | 178 | 180 |
| 17 | 12 | 11.8 | 364 | 376 | 13 | 16.2 | 268 | 281 |
| *Durham* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 8 | 6.5 | 312 | 320 | 11 | 8.0 | 207 | 218 |
| 16 | 20 | 7.2 | 428 | 448 | 20 | 8.5 | 343 | 363 |

*Number of defendants aged 15 to 17 given an immediate custodial sentence, average custodial sentence length[1] and other sentences at all courts, by police force area, England & Wales, 2007-09[2, 3]*

| | 2007 | | | | 2008[5] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force area and age* | *Immediate custody* | *Average custodial sentence length (months)* | *Other sentences[4]* | *Sentenced* | *Immediate custody* | *Average custodial sentence length (months)* | *Other sentences[4]* | *Sentenced* |
| 17 | 27 | 10.3 | 571 | 598 | 16 | 9.3 | 414 | 430 |
| *Essex* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 26 | 6.3 | 471 | 497 | 12 | 7.5 | 458 | 470 |
| 16 | 41 | 8.1 | 680 | 721 | 40 | 9.3 | 580 | 620 |
| 17 | 61 | 10.1 | 893 | 954 | 82 | 9.1 | 789 | 871 |
| *Gloucestershire* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 9 | 13.2 | 187 | 196 | 1 | 8.0 | 149 | 150 |
| 16 | 14 | 14.1 | 201 | 215 | 10 | 15.6 | 185 | 195 |
| 17 | 10 | 14.6 | 305 | 315 | 18 | 12.7 | 315 | 333 |
| *Greater Manchester* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 92 | 9.5 | 1,313 | 1,405 | 81 | 9.2 | 1,048 | 1,129 |
| 16 | 160 | 11.9 | 1,573 | 1,733 | 124 | 9.2 | 1,330 | 1,454 |
| 17 | 210 | 11.1 | 1,579 | 1,789 | 198 | 11.2 | 1,558 | 1,756 |
| *Hampshire* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 41 | 9.3 | 802 | 843 | 28 | 8.7 | 595 | 623 |
| 16 | 70 | 8.5 | 1,019 | 1,089 | 59 | 10.0 | 961 | 1,020 |
| 17 | 89 | 10.0 | 1,231 | 1,320 | 86 | 9.1 | 1,196 | 1,282 |
| *Hertfordshire* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 4 | 5.5 | 235 | 239 | 12 | 8.8 | 225 | 237 |
| 16 | 12 | 5.5 | 298 | 310 | 15 | 9.1 | 302 | 317 |
| 17 | 28 | 9.7 | 457 | 485 | 26 | 10.7 | 433 | 459 |
| *Humberside* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 15 | 8.5 | 432 | 447 | 20 | 11.8 | 377 | 397 |
| 16 | 52 | 11.2 | 494 | 546 | 36 | 9.8 | 482 | 518 |
| 17 | 59 | 11.9 | 569 | 628 | 46 | 11.3 | 477 | 523 |
| *Kent* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 22 | 11.3 | 483 | 505 | 16 | 11.5 | 432 | 448 |
| 16 | 44 | 8.6 | 622 | 666 | 28 | 9.4 | 565 | 593 |
| 17 | 81 | 10.4 | 746 | 827 | 51 | 11.1 | 663 | 714 |
| *Lancashire* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 34 | 9.8 | 631 | 665 | 32 | 11.6 | 529 | 561 |
| 16 | 50 | 10.8 | 916 | 966 | 47 | 11.2 | 753 | 800 |
| 17 | 68 | 11.7 | 1,068 | 1,136 | 67 | 11.5 | 941 | 1,008 |
| *Leicestershire* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 21 | 7.5 | 318 | 339 | 15 | 5.6 | 246 | 261 |
| 16 | 36 | 9.1 | 435 | 471 | 32 | 9.8 | 394 | 426 |
| 17 | 44 | 9.2 | 558 | 602 | 39 | 9.6 | 426 | 465 |
| *Lincolnshire* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 4 | 9.0 | 122 | 126 | 2 | 25.0 | 119 | 121 |
| 16 | 7 | 10.6 | 194 | 201 | 6 | 6.7 | 207 | 213 |
| 17 | 18 | 7.5 | 338 | 356 | 13 | 14.4 | 300 | 313 |

*Number of defendants aged 15 to 17 given an immediate custodial sentence, average custodial sentence length[1] and other sentences at all courts, by police force area, England & Wales, 2007-09[2, 3]*

| | 2007 | | | | 2008[5] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force area and age* | *Immediate custody* | *Average custodial sentence length (months)* | *Other sentences[4]* | *Sentenced* | *Immediate custody* | *Average custodial sentence length (months)* | *Other sentences[4]* | *Sentenced* |
| *Merseyside* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 42 | 7.5 | 515 | 557 | 29 | 13.4 | 452 | 481 |
| 16 | 73 | 8.6 | 778 | 851 | 45 | 12.9 | 717 | 762 |
| 17 | 101 | 10.4 | 926 | 1,027 | 100 | 14.4 | 864 | 964 |
| *Metropolitan police* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 173 | 10.3 | 2,540 | 2,713 | 191 | 12.9 | 2,276 | 2,467 |
| 16 | 235 | 10.7 | 3,313 | 3,548 | 316 | 12.5 | 3,122 | 3,438 |
| 17 | 470 | 13.6 | 3,971 | 4,441 | 495 | 13.9 | 4,098 | 4,593 |
| *Norfolk* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 2 | 12.0 | 187 | 189 | 16 | 8.3 | 182 | 198 |
| 16 | 16 | 8.4 | 292 | 308 | 17 | 8.8 | 271 | 288 |
| 17 | 17 | 12.0 | 368 | 385 | 19 | 11.4 | 406 | 425 |
| *North Yorkshire* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 13 | 8.9 | 306 | 319 | 4 | 6.0 | 228 | 232 |
| 16 | 14 | 11.3 | 351 | 365 | 20 | 12.4 | 312 | 332 |
| 17 | 28 | 10.3 | 449 | 477 | 26 | 11.3 | 448 | 474 |
| *Northamptonshire* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 17 | 7.8 | 138 | 155 | 16 | 8.8 | 143 | 159 |
| 16 | 26 | 10.3 | 148 | 174 | 20 | 11.3 | 203 | 223 |
| 17 | 56 | 10.2 | 213 | 269 | 25 | 10.7 | 240 | 265 |
| *Northumbria* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 22 | 8.9 | 970 | 992 | 16 | 10.3 | 820 | 836 |
| 16 | 48 | 10.2 | 1,238 | 1,286 | 37 | 8.7 | 1,085 | 1,122 |
| 17 | 57 | 8.3 | 1,473 | 1,530 | 53 | 9.4 | 1,298 | 1,351 |
| *Nottinghamshire* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 32 | 11.7 | 359 | 391 | 21 | 8.3 | 302 | 323 |
| 16 | 42 | 12.4 | 517 | 559 | 28 | 13.3 | 413 | 441 |
| 17 | 69 | 12.0 | 601 | 670 | 78 | 12.5 | 561 | 639 |
| *South Yorkshire* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 29 | 6.9 | 516 | 545 | 28 | 11.6 | 457 | 485 |
| 16 | 52 | 10.5 | 568 | 620 | 59 | 12.3 | 534 | 593 |
| 17 | 62 | 10.4 | 667 | 729 | 70 | 13.3 | 762 | 832 |
| *Staffordshire* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 11 | 11.0 | 332 | 343 | 9 | 8.2 | 219 | 228 |
| 16 | 22 | 10.5 | 380 | 402 | 25 | 12.0 | 345 | 370 |
| 17 | 29 | 10.8 | 498 | 527 | 38 | 13.2 | 517 | 555 |
| *Suffolk* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 17 | 8.0 | 231 | 248 | 8 | 6.8 | 192 | 200 |
| 16 | 25 | 8.0 | 335 | 360 | 21 | 8.7 | 301 | 322 |
| 17 | 32 | 9.8 | 476 | 508 | 33 | 11.0 | 395 | 428 |
| *Surrey* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 6 | 5.7 | 181 | 187 | 3 | 4.0 | 149 | 152 |
| 16 | 8 | 11.8 | 278 | 286 | 3 | 4.0 | 281 | 284 |

*Number of defendants aged 15 to 17 given an immediate custodial sentence, average custodial sentence length[1] and other sentences at all courts, by police force area, England & Wales, 2007-09[2, 3]*

| | 2007 | | | | 2008[5] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force area and age* | *Immediate custody* | *Average custodial sentence length (months)* | *Other sentences[4]* | *Sentenced* | *Immediate custody* | *Average custodial sentence length (months)* | *Other sentences[4]* | *Sentenced* |
| 17 | 11 | 12.9 | 413 | 424 | 16 | 17.4 | 386 | 402 |
| *Sussex* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 16 | 10.1 | 536 | 552 | 12 | 10.9 | 445 | 457 |
| 16 | 22 | 13.7 | 669 | 691 | 26 | 11.7 | 586 | 612 |
| 17 | 46 | 13.9 | 800 | 846 | 45 | 17.6 | 691 | 736 |
| *Thames Valley* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 14 | 12.9 | 444 | 458 | 16 | 5.7 | 475 | 491 |
| 16 | 64 | 9.4 | 688 | 752 | 31 | 11.1 | 590 | 621 |
| 17 | 75 | 9.8 | 899 | 974 | 58 | 11.5 | 885 | 943 |
| *Warwickshire* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 3 | 8.0 | 119 | 122 | 3 | 14.0 | 95 | 98 |
| 16 | 9 | 9.3 | 219 | 228 | 5 | 15.6 | 148 | 153 |
| 17 | 22 | 14.5 | 225 | 247 | 16 | 13.4 | 209 | 225 |
| *West Mercia* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 12 | 6.5 | 345 | 357 | 14 | 10.1 | 317 | 331 |
| 16 | 33 | 7.8 | 475 | 508 | 22 | 10.4 | 430 | 452 |
| 17 | 38 | 11.6 | 751 | 789 | 45 | 7.2 | 627 | 672 |
| *West Midlands* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 66 | 8.5 | 923 | 989 | 63 | 9.5 | 822 | 885 |
| 16 | 126 | 11.9 | 1,355 | 1,481 | 121 | 11.1 | 1,110 | 1,231 |
| 17 | 166 | 14.1 | 1,715 | 1,881 | 210 | 12.2 | 1,427 | 1,637 |
| *West Yorkshire* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 56 | 8.5 | 798 | 854 | 58 | 8.8 | 823 | 881 |
| 16 | 124 | 10.1 | 984 | 1,108 | 86 | 10.0 | 884 | 970 |
| 17 | 148 | 12.2 | 1,016 | 1,164 | 152 | 13.8 | 1,141 | 1,293 |
| *Wiltshire* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 4 | 9.0 | 134 | 138 | 6 | 11.0 | 122 | 128 |
| 16 | 4 | 11.5 | 176 | 180 | 4 | 9.5 | 200 | 204 |
| 17 | 11 | 8.9 | 285 | 296 | 9 | 16.0 | 232 | 241 |
| *Dyfed-Powys* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 2 | 8.0 | 140 | 142 | 2 | 7.0 | 109 | 111 |
| 16 | 8 | 5.5 | 188 | 196 | 5 | 17.4 | 199 | 204 |
| 17 | 19 | 7.3 | 248 | 267 | 9 | 5.8 | 252 | 261 |
| *Gwent* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 12 | 6.2 | 196 | 208 | 6 | 17.3 | 154 | 160 |
| 16 | 12 | 5.5 | 306 | 318 | 15 | 9.9 | 242 | 257 |
| 17 | 32 | 7.7 | 387 | 419 | 26 | 11.8 | 315 | 341 |
| *North Wales* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 17 | 8.0 | 218 | 235 | 13 | 9.6 | 211 | 224 |
| 16 | 24 | 10.1 | 266 | 290 | 28 | 8.3 | 265 | 293 |
| 17 | 29 | 9.4 | 292 | 321 | 35 | 7.3 | 310 | 345 |

*Number of defendants aged 15 to 17 given an immediate custodial sentence, average custodial sentence length[1] and other sentences at all courts, by police force area, England & Wales, 2007-09[2, 3]*

| | 2007 | | | | 2008[5] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Police force area and age | Immediate custody | Average custodial sentence length (months) | Other sentences[4] | Sentenced | Immediate custody | Average custodial sentence length (months) | Other sentences[4] | Sentenced |
| *South Wales* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 16 | 8.5 | 323 | 339 | 16 | 21.8 | 273 | 289 |
| 16 | 47 | 8.1 | 532 | 579 | 52 | 15.1 | 458 | 510 |
| 17 | 85 | 10.3 | 707 | 792 | 72 | 13.7 | 573 | 645 |
| *Wales* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 47 | 7.7 | 877 | 924 | 37 | 16.0 | 747 | 784 |
| 16 | 91 | 8.1 | 1,292 | 1,383 | 100 | 12.6 | 1,164 | 1,264 |
| 17 | 165 | 9.3 | 1,634 | 1,799 | 142 | 11.3 | 1,450 | 1,592 |
| *England* | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 922 | 8.9 | 17,531 | 18,453 | 852 | 10.3 | 15,163 | 16,015 |
| 16 | 1,647 | 10.1 | 23,061 | 24,708 | 1,477 | 11.0 | 20,699 | 22,176 |
| 17 | 2,445 | 11.5 | 28,307 | 30,752 | 2,455 | 12.4 | 26,703 | 29,158 |

| | 2009 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Police force area and age | Immediate custody | Average custodial sentence length (months) | Other sentences[4] | Sentenced |
| *Avon and Somerset* | | | | |
| 15 | 23 | 10.0 | 363 | 386 |
| 16 | 38 | 10.5 | 446 | 484 |
| 17 | 59 | 10.5 | 540 | 599 |
| *Bedfordshire* | | | | |
| 15 | 6 | 6.0 | 120 | 126 |
| 16 | 7 | 10.3 | 172 | 179 |
| 17 | 18 | 9.0 | 235 | 253 |
| *Cambridgeshire* | | | | |
| 15 | 12 | 13.0 | 211 | 223 |
| 16 | 12 | 9.2 | 238 | 250 |
| 17 | 33 | 11.6 | 298 | 331 |
| *Cheshire* | | | | |
| 15 | 13 | 9.3 | 215 | 228 |
| 16 | 28 | 12.4 | 284 | 312 |
| 17 | 54 | 12.8 | 406 | 460 |
| *City of London* | | | | |
| 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| *Cleveland* | | | | |
| 15 | 18 | 6.9 | 296 | 314 |
| 16 | 24 | 6.9 | 349 | 373 |
| 17 | 33 | 12.3 | 432 | 465 |
| *Cumbria* | | | | |
| 15 | 4 | 6.5 | 170 | 174 |
| 16 | 7 | 5.1 | 217 | 224 |
| 17 | 28 | 7.4 | 375 | 403 |

| Police force area and age | 2009<br>Immediate custody | Average custodial sentence length (months) | Other sentences[4] | Sentenced |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Derbyshire* | | | | |
| 15 | 17 | 9.9 | 253 | 270 |
| 16 | 44 | 11.6 | 353 | 397 |
| 17 | 54 | 9.4 | 424 | 478 |
| *Devon and Cornwall* | | | | |
| 15 | 7 | 8.0 | 306 | 313 |
| 16 | 26 | 10.3 | 491 | 517 |
| 17 | 34 | 12.5 | 750 | 784 |
| *Dorset* | | | | |
| 15 | 2 | 4.0 | 103 | 105 |
| 16 | 1 | 4.0 | 200 | 201 |
| 17 | 5 | 14.8 | 266 | 271 |
| *Durham* | | | | |
| 15 | 2 | 5.0 | 187 | 189 |
| 16 | 12 | 12.5 | 289 | 301 |
| 17 | 25 | 10.3 | 420 | 445 |
| *Essex* | | | | |
| 15 | 18 | 5.2 | 457 | 475 |
| 16 | 25 | 9.0 | 603 | 628 |
| 17 | 71 | 12.2 | 837 | 908 |
| *Gloucestershire* | | | | |
| 15 | 3 | 5.3 | 115 | 118 |
| 16 | 8 | 17.5 | 190 | 198 |
| 17 | 5 | 39.0 | 231 | 236 |
| *Greater Manchester* | | | | |
| 15 | 62 | 8.6 | 916 | 978 |
| 16 | 99 | 11.4 | 1,288 | 1,387 |
| 17 | 162 | 10.2 | 1,601 | 1,763 |
| *Hampshire* | | | | |
| 15 | 29 | 7.1 | 639 | 668 |
| 16 | 41 | 9.0 | 780 | 821 |
| 17 | 85 | 11.8 | 1,040 | 1,125 |
| *Hertfordshire* | | | | |
| 15 | 3 | 12.0 | 225 | 228 |
| 16 | 15 | 10.1 | 289 | 304 |
| 17 | 30 | 10.9 | 400 | 430 |
| *Humberside* | | | | |
| 15 | 26 | 9.0 | 362 | 388 |
| 16 | 30 | 12.7 | 429 | 459 |
| 17 | 47 | 14.4 | 573 | 620 |
| *Kent* | | | | |
| 15 | 15 | 11.2 | 472 | 487 |
| 16 | 39 | 8.9 | 529 | 568 |
| 17 | 62 | 11.8 | 707 | 769 |
| *Lancashire* | | | | |
| 15 | 22 | 11.0 | 622 | 644 |

| | 2009 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force area and age* | *Immediate custody* | *Average custodial sentence length (months)* | *Other sentences*[4] | *Sentenced* |
| 16 | 48 | 8.5 | 738 | 786 |
| 17 | 60 | 8.9 | 954 | 1,014 |
| *Leicestershire* | | | | |
| 15 | 13 | 6.9 | 192 | 205 |
| 16 | 26 | 7.6 | 235 | 261 |
| 17 | 32 | 12.6 | 361 | 393 |
| *Lincolnshire* | | | | |
| 15 | 8 | 5.8 | 106 | 114 |
| 16 | 9 | 12.0 | 192 | 201 |
| 17 | 21 | 8.7 | 287 | 308 |
| *Merseyside* | | | | |
| 15 | 37 | 14.4 | 492 | 529 |
| 16 | 60 | 12.4 | 630 | 690 |
| 17 | 82 | 14.4 | 891 | 973 |
| *Metropolitan police* | | | | |
| 15 | 135 | 10.2 | 2,264 | 2,399 |
| 16 | 239 | 14.5 | 3,039 | 3,278 |
| 17 | 426 | 14.1 | 3,755 | 4,181 |
| *Norfolk* | | | | |
| 15 | 9 | 9.1 | 199 | 208 |
| 16 | 11 | 10.4 | 236 | 247 |
| 17 | 17 | 13.4 | 328 | 345 |
| *North Yorkshire* | | | | |
| 15 | 6 | 9.7 | 210 | 216 |
| 16 | 12 | 16.2 | 328 | 340 |
| 17 | 32 | 9.6 | 424 | 456 |
| *Northamptonshire* | | | | |
| 15 | 7 | 4.9 | 138 | 145 |
| 16 | 21 | 9.5 | 194 | 215 |
| 17 | 34 | 12.8 | 232 | 266 |
| *Northumbria* | | | | |
| 15 | 15 | 10.7 | 724 | 739 |
| 16 | 28 | 7.7 | 943 | 971 |
| 17 | 61 | 9.1 | 1,266 | 1,327 |
| *Nottinghamshire* | | | | |
| 15 | 27 | 8.3 | 255 | 282 |
| 16 | 30 | 10.4 | 382 | 412 |
| 17 | 67 | 14.4 | 587 | 654 |
| *South Yorkshire* | | | | |
| 15 | 23 | 10.6 | 381 | 404 |
| 16 | 47 | 9.7 | 503 | 550 |
| 17 | 78 | 13.7 | 698 | 776 |
| *Staffordshire* | | | | |
| 15 | 8 | 10.3 | 171 | 179 |
| 16 | 22 | 13.4 | 255 | 277 |
| 17 | 53 | 10.4 | 392 | 445 |

| | 2009 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force area and age* | *Immediate custody* | *Average custodial sentence length (months)* | *Other sentences*[4] | *Sentenced* |
| *Suffolk* | | | | |
| 15 | 7 | 7.1 | 195 | 202 |
| 16 | 9 | 5.6 | 295 | 304 |
| 17 | 29 | 8.6 | 399 | 428 |
| *Surrey* | | | | |
| 15 | 5 | 20.0 | 162 | 167 |
| 16 | 9 | 24.0 | 282 | 291 |
| 17 | 17 | 11.8 | 387 | 404 |
| *Sussex* | | | | |
| 15 | 16 | 10.8 | 371 | 387 |
| 16 | 28 | 12.5 | 519 | 547 |
| 17 | 33 | 9.6 | 694 | 727 |
| *Thames Valley* | | | | |
| 15 | 18 | 7.2 | 406 | 424 |
| 16 | 32 | 11.3 | 571 | 603 |
| 17 | 50 | 10.8 | 775 | 825 |
| *Warwickshire* | | | | |
| 15 | 1 | 18.0 | 67 | 68 |
| 16 | 5 | 10.8 | 111 | 116 |
| 17 | 7 | 14.6 | 194 | 201 |
| *West Mercia* | | | | |
| 15 | 12 | 8.3 | 314 | 326 |
| 16 | 19 | 10.3 | 373 | 392 |
| 17 | 31 | 9.5 | 463 | 494 |
| *West Midlands* | | | | |
| 15 | 58 | 8.4 | 631 | 689 |
| 16 | 102 | 12.2 | 1,028 | 1,130 |
| 17 | 189 | 13.4 | 1,344 | 1,533 |
| *West Yorkshire* | | | | |
| 15 | 44 | 9.0 | 683 | 727 |
| 16 | 97 | 10.0 | 1,011 | 1,108 |
| 17 | 114 | 12.8 | 1,100 | 1,214 |
| *Wiltshire* | | | | |
| 15 | 6 | 5.0 | 158 | 164 |
| 16 | 8 | 9.5 | 197 | 205 |
| 17 | 16 | 15.4 | 285 | 301 |
| *Dyfed-Powys* | | | | |
| 15 | 3 | 10.0 | 92 | 95 |
| 16 | 6 | 11.3 | 149 | 155 |
| 17 | 12 | 8.2 | 282 | 294 |
| *Gwent* | | | | |
| 15 | 10 | 7.0 | 143 | 153 |
| 16 | 14 | 6.7 | 238 | 252 |
| 17 | 14 | 7.9 | 309 | 323 |

| | 2009 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force area and age* | *Immediate custody* | *Average custodial sentence length (months)* | *Other sentences*[4] | *Sentenced* |
| *North Wales* | | | | |
| 15 | 11 | 7.1 | 203 | 214 |
| 16 | 22 | 7.1 | 266 | 288 |
| 17 | 39 | 8.1 | 353 | 392 |
| *South Wales* | | | | |
| 15 | 23 | 13.4 | 369 | 392 |
| 16 | 41 | 8.9 | 458 | 499 |
| 17 | 85 | 10.0 | 723 | 808 |
| *Wales* | | | | |
| 15 | 47 | 10.3 | 807 | 854 |
| 16 | 83 | 8.2 | 1,111 | 1,194 |
| 17 | 150 | 9.2 | 1,667 | 1,817 |
| *England* | | | | |
| 15 | 737 | 9.3 | 14,151 | 14,888 |
| 16 | 1,318 | 11.4 | 19,209 | 20,527 |
| 17 | 2,254 | 12.2 | 25,353 | 27,607 |

[1] Excludes life and indeterminate sentences.

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Other sentences include: absolute and conditional discharge, fine, community sentence, suspended sentence and otherwise dealt with.

[5] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Thursday 17 March 2011*

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Bill of Rights

**Naomi Long:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 452W, on the Bill of Rights, if he will take steps to increase the likelihood of agreement being reached amongst Northern Ireland parties on a Northern Ireland Bill of Rights. [47123]

**Mr Swire:** The Government continue to stress the importance of reaching agreement among political representatives and the wider community on the issue of supplementary rights for Northern Ireland in their discussions with interested groups. We will continue to consider how best to proceed over the coming months.

### Departmental Public Bodies

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which public bodies sponsored by his Department *(a)* have been and *(b)* are to be closed, merged or reorganised following his appointment; and how many (i) women and (ii) men who are public appointees at each body will no longer hold such an appointment in consequence. [47100]

**Mr Swire:** The Northern Ireland Office sponsors three bodies that are classified as public bodies by Cabinet Office. These are: the Boundary Commission Northern Ireland, the Parades Commission and the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission. The Department has no current plans to close, merge or reorganise any of these bodies.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he has taken to reduce departmental expenditure. [46811]

**Mr Swire:** My Department has already taken steps to reduce travel, accommodation and other general administration costs, and is committed to reducing overall expenditure by 25% by the end of the spending review period.

### Domestic Visits

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on how many days in each of the last three years *(a)* he and his predecessors and *(b)* Ministers of State have been in Northern Ireland on official business. [46812]

**Mr Paterson:** The Minister of State, the hon. Member for East Devon (Mr Swire) and I, and our predecessors, have been in Northern Ireland on official business on the following number of days:

| | *Days* |
|---|---|
| *Secretary of State* | |
| 2008 | 83 |
| 2009 | 81 |
| 2010 | [1]33 |
| 2010 | [2]82 |
| 2011 | [3]19 |
| *Minister of State* | |
| 2008 | 133 |
| 2009 | 124 |
| 2010 | [1]41 |
| 2010 | [2]72 |
| 2011 | [3]19 |

[1] Up to general election 6 May 2010

[2] From appointment on 12 May 2010

[3] To date

### Serious Organised Crime Agency

**Mr Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the migration to the National Crime Agency of the work carried out in Northern Ireland by the Serious Organised Crime Agency; [47245]

(2) how many people formerly employed by the Assets Recovery Agency in Northern Ireland were transferred to the Serious Organised Crime Agency; [47246]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the operation of the Serious Organised Crime Agency in Northern Ireland; [47250]

(4) what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the operation of the Serious Organised Crime Agency. [47255]

**Mr Swire:** Matters relating to the Serious Organised Crime Agency fall under the responsibility of the devolved Administration in Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland Justice Minister and his Department work closely with the Secretary of State for the Home Department, the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), and her Department on such matters.

The Secretary of State and I meet regularly with the Northern Ireland Justice Minister to discuss as necessary matters relating to security in Northern Ireland.

## ATTORNEY-GENERAL

### Legal Advice and Assistance: Libya

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Attorney-General whether he provided legal advice to Ministers prior to the recent diplomatic mission to eastern Libya; and if he will make a statement. [47291]

**The Attorney-General:** By long-standing convention, observed by successive administrations and embodied in the Ministerial Code, the fact that the Law Officers have advised (or have not advised) on a particular issue, and the content of any advice, is not disclosed outside of Government.

# TRANSPORT

## Bus Services: Concessions

**Mr Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of availability of services to provide free bus passes to elderly people in rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [46516]

**Norman Baker:** The National Travel Survey 2009 estimated that 87% of households in Great Britain were within six minutes walk of a bus stop while a further 10% were within 13 minutes. Between 1998 and 2009, the proportion of households in rural areas that were within 13 minutes walk of an hourly or more frequent bus service increased from 45% to 58%.

The England-wide concessionary travel pass is valid for free travel on local buses at off-peak times in any local authority. Its use is not restricted to the local authority in which the pass holder resides.

# WALES

## Business Advisory Group

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the name is of each member of the Business Advisory Group for Wales. [46776]

**Mr David Jones:** Members confirmed as of the first meeting were:

David Rosser (CBI Wales)
Russell Lawson (FSB Wales)
Steve Thomas (Airbus)
Phil Orford ( Forum of Private Business)
Dylan Jones Evans (University of Wales)
Graham Hillier (Toyota)
Colin Orr Burns (Dragon LNG)
Professor Stuart Cole (Wales Transport Research Centre)
Professor Wayne Powell (Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences, Aberystwyth University)
Paul Gorin (Smart Solutions Ltd.)

# SCOTLAND

## Departmental Public Bodies

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which public bodies sponsored by his Department *(a)* have been and *(b)* are to be closed, merged or reorganised following his appointment; and how many (i) women and (ii) men who are public appointees at each body will no longer hold such an appointment in consequence. [47098]

**David Mundell:** The only public body sponsored by the Scotland Office is the Boundary Commission for Scotland. The Boundary Commission for Scotland has not and is not to be closed, merged or reorganised.

## Departmental Regulation

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what regulations his Department introduced between 3 February 2011 and 28 February 2011. [47034]

**David Mundell:** Between 3 February 2011 and 28 February 2011 the Secretary of State for Scotland introduced no regulations.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what regulations his Department revoked between 3 February 2011 and 28 February 2011. [47035]

**David Mundell:** Between 3 February 2011 and 28 February 2011 the Secretary of State for Scotland revoked no regulations.

## Domestic Visits

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many days *(a)* he and *(b)* his predecessors have spent in Scotland on official business in each of the last three years. [46956]

**David Mundell:** The Secretary of State for Scotland and I routinely conduct official business in Scotland. Details of meetings with external organisations are published on the Government's Transparency website at:

http://data.gov.uk

and are also published on the Scotland Office website.

## Elections

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland with reference to the Spring Supplementary Estimate 2010/11, HC 790, for what reasons there is proposed a reduction of £15 million in non-voted expenditure in relation to Scottish Parliament elections. [46823]

**David Mundell:** The funding for the Scottish Parliament election forms part of the grant to the Scottish Consolidated Fund; however the costs of the Scottish Parliament election fall to the Scotland Office. The Spring Supplementary Estimate 2010-11, HC790, transaction is the transfer of the £15 million non-voted expenditure from the Scottish Consolidated Fund to the Scotland Office.

# TREASURY

## Cheques

**Roger Williams:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on proposals from the UK Payments Council to phase out cheques as a method of payment; and if he will make a statement. [47312]

**Mr Hoban:** The Treasury has received a number of representations from individuals and businesses that are affected by the decision of the Payments Council, and that wish to continue to use cheques in future.

I refer the hon. Member to my letter of 10 December 2010 to all Members of the House setting out the Government's position on cheques.

### Child Care Tax Credit

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in *(a)* Glasgow North East constituency, *(b)* Glasgow, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Great Britain received assistance with the cost of childcare under the tax credit system in each of the last four financial years. [46893]

**Mr Gauke:** The following table shows the number of families that were benefiting from the child care element of tax credits at December in each of the past four years:

*Number of families benefiting from the child care element of tax credits*

| *At December each year* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Glasgow North East | 1,100 | 1,100 | 1,100 | 1,100 |
| Glasgow City | 5,800 | 6,200 | 6,500 | 6,600 |
| Scotland | 40,100 | 42,300 | 43,600 | 44,200 |
| Great Britain | 412,500 | 445,000 | 463,000 | 469,500 |

### Civil Servants: Pensions

**Ian Murray:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans permanently to uprate civil service pensions using the consumer prices index. [42231]

**Danny Alexander** *[holding answer 28 February 2011]*: Public service pensions will continue to be index linked and continue to protect individual pensions against increases in the cost of living. Legislation which governs the uprating of benefits, tax credits, and public service pensions requires consideration to be given to increases in the general level of prices, estimated in such manner as the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions thinks fit. The Government consider that the Consumer Prices Index, already used to set the inflation target for the Bank of England, is the appropriate index to use for such estimates in future.

### Corporation Tax

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the proportion of businesses trading in the UK which paid no corporation tax in each of the last four financial years. [44849]

**Mr Gauke:** For the last four financial years where figures are available it is estimated that the proportion of companies, that were required to make a Corporation tax (CT) return, which paid no CT is 53% (2005-06), 44% (2006-07), 46% (2007-08) and 50% (2008-09). These companies either made losses or had no taxable profits after deductions.

These deductions include losses brought forward from earlier years and carried back from later years and group relief surrendered by companies within the same group.

Group and loss relief policies remain broadly unchanged since the inception of the CT regime in 1965. Group and loss relief are important elements of the CT regime which ensure that companies with similar profits over their life cycle but different patterns of profits and losses over the years, pay broadly the same amounts of tax overall and recognises the economic reality that grouped companies are part of a wider whole. This is balanced, however, with the need for a pragmatic approach to protect tax revenues.

### Departmental Assets

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether receipts from the sale of assets owned by regional development agencies are reflected in the spending plans of his Department for *(a)* 2012-13 and *(b)* 2013-14. [47415]

**Danny Alexander:** No receipts from the sale of assets owned by regional development agencies are reflected in the spending plans of HM Treasury for 2012-13 and 2013-14.

### Departmental Rail Travel

**Mr Godsiff:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of civil servants in his Department are entitled to travel first class by rail within the UK. [47069]

**Justine Greening:** There is no entitlement for any HM Treasury staff members to travel first class by rail.

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will ensure that there is sent to the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton without further delay a copy of the letter of 21 February 2011 setting out the Government's overall position on fuel duty related risks. [46752]

**Justine Greening:** I have arranged for a copy of the letter, sent to all hon. Members, dated 9 February 2011, on Fuel Duty issues to be sent to the right hon. Member.

### National Insurance Contributions

**Stephen Lloyd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many companies have made use of the regional employers national insurance contribution holiday for new businesses since June 2010. [47367]

**Mr Gauke:** The Government intend to publish details of the take-up of the NICs holiday around Budget later this month.

### PAYE

**Julie Elliott:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made on reforming the PAYE system to introduce real time collection of payments. [46720]

**Mr Gauke:** HMRC published a consultation document "Improving the operation of Pay As You Earn (PAYE): Collecting Real Time Information" in December 2010. The formal consultation closed on 28 February 2011 and the written responses are being analysed.

A summary of responses will be published in due course.

### Pensions: Public Sector

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate has been made of the number of retired people receiving public sector pensions worth more than *(a)* £100,000, *(b)* £75,000 and *(c)* £50,000 per year; and what estimate has been made of the number of people working in the public sector who are expected to receive pensions after retirement worth more than (i) £100,000, (ii) £75,000 and (iii) £50,000 per year. [43720]

**Danny Alexander:** HM Treasury does not hold member data centrally. This is an issue for Departments that lead on individual public service pension schemes. Some information was included in the interim report of the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission, led by Lord Hutton of Furness, published on 7 October 2010:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/indreview_johnhutton_pensions.htm

Table 1.C of the report provides details on the distribution of pension payments in the public service schemes. In particular, it estimates that 34,252 pensioners receive at least £37,000 per annum and 2,960 pensioners receive at least £67,000 per annum.

### Revenue and Customs: India

**Mr David Davis:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what matters officials of HM Revenue and Customs discussed with their Indian counterparts when in Delhi between 29 November and 5 December 2010. [47303]

**Mr Gauke:** HMRC officials met with Indian tax officials in Delhi and Mumbai between 29 November and 5 December 2010. Discussions covered transfer pricing, advance pricing agreements, mutual agreement procedures, arbitration, tax treaty matters, sharing information on tax avoidance, and help which HMRC can provide to India. In addition they covered international tax bodies of which HMRC and the Indian tax authorities are members, reform of the Indian tax system (the introduction of a goods and services tax and the new direct taxes code), tax law rewrite, post-clearance audits and tax enforcement matters, including money laundering.

As a result of those discussions, arrangements have been made for two teams of Indian tax officials to visit HMRC.

### Revenue and Customs: Sick Leave

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the gross total was for the number of days lost due to staff sickness in each of HM Revenue and Customs business streams in each of the last five years. [43745]

**Mr Gauke** *[holding answer 7 March 2011]:* The following table gives the total number of days lost to staff sickness in each of HM Revenue and Customs business streams in each of the last five years.

| | *Days taken* | *Headcount* |
|---|---|---|
| *Year ended 31 December 2010* | | |
| Benefits and Credits | 70,364 | 7,126 |
| Business Tax | 32,401 | 4,300 |
| Corporate Services | 56,873 | 6,529 |
| Enforcement and Compliance | 257,977 | 28,715 |
| Personal Tax | 352,090 | 28,796 |
| Unknown—grouping not found | 62,754 | 2 |
| Total | 832,459 | 75,468 |
| *Year ended 31 December 2009* | | |
| Benefits and Credits | 93,078 | 7,306 |
| Business Tax | 34,893 | 4,147 |
| Corporate Services | 64,532 | 7,154 |
| Enforcement and Compliance | 281,432 | 29,850 |
| Personal Tax | 434,170 | 32,543 |
| Unknown—grouping not found | 72,163 | 41 |
| Total | 980,268 | 81,041 |
| *Year ended 31 December 2008* | | |
| Benefits and Credits | 96,417 | 7,806 |
| Business Tax | 20,039 | 3,185 |
| Corporate Services | 68,123 | 8,038 |
| Enforcement and Compliance | 305,639 | 36,314 |
| Personal Tax | 472,156 | 35,848 |
| Unknown—grouping not found | 48,438 | 8 |
| Total | 1,010,812 | 91,199 |
| *Year ended 31 December 2007* | | |
| Benefits and Credits | 706 | 104 |
| Business Tax | 12,259 | 2,996 |
| Corporate Services | 55,027 | 8,734 |
| Enforcement and Compliance | 222,345 | 39,264 |
| Personal Tax | 544,343 | 42,258 |
| Unknown—grouping not found | 51,159 | 2,185 |
| Total | 885,839 | 95,541 |
| *Year ended 31 December 2006* | | |
| Benefits and Credits | 427 | 92 |
| Business Tax | 7,196 | 2,724 |
| Corporate Services | 36,779 | 9,946 |
| Enforcement and Compliance | 172,443 | 41,757 |
| Personal Tax | 398,277 | 45,886 |
| Unknown—grouping not found | 272,996 | 50 |
| Total | 888,118 | 100,455 |

*Notes:*

1. There have been structural changes within HMRC over the period covered by the table. Data which could not be attributed to a particular business stream have been recorded as 'Unknown'. The two former departments did not move to a single IT system until November 2006 and that accounts for the relatively high number of unknowns in that year. For example, Benefits and Credits comprised only the project team establishing the new business stream; other staff are included in the figures for Personal Tax.
2. The numbers are actual days taken and not the full-time equivalent.

### Revenue and Customs: Training

**Glyn Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what training staff have undertaken on claiming and payment of working tax credit before assessing individual claims. [46876]

**Mr Gauke:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) assess, calculate and pay tax credits entitlement automatically. Rapid data capture (RDC) techniques are used to scan information on tax credits claims electronically and record it onto the tax credits computer system. Further information about RDC is published on the HMRC website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/ntcmanual/rdc/ntc1101100.htm

All claims are subject to a range of automated checks. HMRC often need to make more detailed inquiries into incomplete claims or those that fail risk checks.

HMRC deliver targeted learning to all staff when they are deployed to different aspects of tax credits work. Depending on the nature of the task, the learning can be delivered face to face, computer based, guided using work books or a combination of these. That learning is supported by detailed guidance, some of which is published on the HMRC website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/thelibrary/manuals.htm

and consolidated by a series of ongoing quality assurance checks.

### Tax Avoidance

**Mr David Davis:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax investigations were settled for a sum of more than *(a)* £10 million and *(b)* £100 million below the tax estimated to have been at risk in the last three years. [41453]

**Mr Gauke** *[holding answer 17 February 2011]*: Cases involving sums of this order are likely to involve big business. HMRC estimates the tax under consideration in any case involving big business before starting inquiries. That estimate is made without considering the likelihood of success in the case or examining the facts or how the law applies in specific circumstances. If an investigation is started, then the tax under consideration is kept under review and will usually change as the case progresses.

The tax ultimately considered to be at risk is usually the amount for which the case is settled. HMRC is not able to identify any cases settled by agreement for £10 million or £100 million below the amount of tax at risk.

### Taxation

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for International Development and *(b)* consultation he has undertaken with (i) developing countries and (ii) non-governmental organisations on proposed changes to the controlled foreign company rules and taxation of foreign branches. [45372]

**Mr Gauke:** Treasury Ministers hold regular conversations with the Secretary of State for International Development on a wide range of issues regarding developing countries.

The Government published the consultation document "Corporate Tax Reform: delivering a more competitive system" on 29 November 2010, which includes the proposals for a new CFC regime and for reforms to the taxation of foreign branches. The Government are committed to an open, transparent consultation and have encouraged engagement with all interested parties. This has included engaging with non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

The Government work through a variety of channels to deliver high-quality capacity building in developing country tax administrations to ensure that these countries are in a position to collect the tax they are owed.

### Taxation: Domicil

**Mark Reckless:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many taxpayers became non-resident in each of the last three years for which figures are available; [42367]

(2) what proportion of taxpayers who became non-resident paid tax at a rate of 40 per cent. or higher in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [42368]

**Mr Gauke:** The information on the number of taxpayers who become non resident in each of the last three years is not available.

Not all taxpayers who become non-resident either need or are obliged to notify HMRC if they become non-resident.

The main source of data on residence is Self Assessment (SA) returns. Of the non residents who filed a SA return, it is estimated that those who became non-resident during each of the last three tax years for which figures are available were as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 23,000 |
| 2007-08 | 32,000 |
| 2008-09 | 29,000 |

These figures do not include those taxpayers who became non-resident but who had no obligation to submit a SA return.

The percentage of those individuals who paid income tax at 40 per cent or higher in each year is as follows:

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 27 |
| 2007-08 | 23 |
| 2008-09 | 29 |

2008-09 is the most recent tax year for which data are available.

### VAT: Energy

**Roger Williams:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the merits of reducing the rate of value added tax on energy efficiency home improvements in order to help meet the objectives of the Green Deal. [47013]

**Mr Gauke:** The Government keep all taxes under review, and will continue to consider proposals for new reliefs carefully. A reduced rate of VAT is already applied to the installation of certain energy-saving materials in domestic properties, including insulation, draught stripping, solar panels and micro combined heat and power units.

### Video Games: National Income

**Hazel Blears:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what contribution the video games industry made to gross domestic product in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008, *(c)* 2009 and *(d)* 2010. [46887]

(2) what proportion of the contribution made to the gross domestic product from the video games industry came from *(a)* London, *(b)* the North West, *(c)* the North East, *(d)* the South East, *(e)* the South West, *(f)* the East Midlands, *(g)* the West Midlands and *(h)* the East of England in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2010; [46888]

(3) what proportion of the tax revenues from the British video gaming industry came from *(a)* London, *(b)* the North West, *(c)* the North East, *(d)* the South East, *(e)* the South West, *(f)* the East Midlands, *(g)* the West Midlands and *(h)* the East of England in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2010; [46889]

(4) what estimate he has made of the receipts to the Exchequer from taxes on the video games industry in the UK in each year since 2007. [46942]

**Mr Gauke:** The information necessary to provide estimates broken into these regions, sectors and years is not available.

### Working Tax Credit: Fraud

**Glyn Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much working tax credit has been overpaid due to fraudulent claims in each of the last five years. [46886]

**Mr Gauke:** The latest published estimates show levels of tax credits error and fraud of 8.9% in 2008-09. HMRC do not record the levels of error and fraud within working tax credit and child tax credit separately. HMRC have a target to reduce the combined levels of error and fraud to no more than 5% by the end of March 2011.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) publish its error and fraud statistics on its website. The most recent information is for 2008-09 and can be found at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtcredits-error0809.pdf

The Trust Statement that accompanied HMRC's 2009-10 accounts explains in more detail how the Department measures the overall level of tax credits error and fraud, published at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-accs-0910.pdf

HMRC published a joint strategy with the Department for Work and Pensions to help drive down error and fraud across the benefits and tax credits system. The publication can be found at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/tackling-fraud-and-error.pdf

### Housing: Construction

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to take steps to support the financing of self-build homes. [46873]

**Grant Shapps:** I have been asked to reply.

Self-builders are already one of the country's largest house builders. They form an important part of the Government's strong commitment to increasing the supply of affordable and sustainable homes and promoting economic growth.

This is why we have invited industry experts to work with us on a Government-Industry working group to prepare an action plan, which will set out the concrete steps needed to make it easier for people to build their own homes, whether on their own or as part of a community effort to create a new neighbourhood.

The working group have identified finance availability as a key challenge to the growth of the industry. A sub-group of industry experts will be examining finance issues in detail, and will identify any actions that can be taken to support self builders. The group will be making recommendations to me by the summer.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many suicide bombings against International Security Assistance Force forces operating under Regional Command South in Afghanistan were recorded in each month since June 2006. [36155]

**Dr Fox** *[holding answer 25 January 2011]:* The numbers of suicide Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and Suicide Person Borne IED attacks recorded in Regional Command South each month since January 2007 are shown in the following table. None were recorded between June and December 2006. Regional Command South was split into Regional Command South West and Regional Command South in July 2010, so the numbers of attacks from this month onward occurred within a smaller geographical area.

| | *Total attacks in Regional Command South* |
|---|---|
| January 2007 | 9 |
| February 2007 | 7 |
| March 2007 | 9 |
| April 2007 | 3 |
| May 2007 | 3 |
| June 2007 | 3 |
| July 2007 | 7 |
| August 2007 | 4 |
| September 2007 | 6 |
| October 2007 | 4 |
| November 2007 | 3 |
| December 2007 | 2 |
| January 2008 | 8 |
| February 2008 | 8 |
| March 2008 | 1 |

| | Total attacks in Regional Command South |
|---|---|
| April 2008 | 9 |
| May 2008 | 8 |
| June 2008 | 7 |
| July 2008 | 6 |
| August 2008 | 4 |
| September 2008 | 9 |
| October 2008 | 4 |
| November 2008 | 6 |
| December 2008 | 10 |
| January 2009 | 2 |
| February 2009 | 11 |
| March 2009 | 10 |
| April 2009 | 16 |
| May 2009 | 12 |
| June 2009 | 9 |
| July 2009 | 5 |
| August 2009 | 12 |
| September 2009 | 13 |
| October 2009 | 2 |
| November 2009 | 4 |
| December 2009 | 3 |
| January 2010 | 8 |
| February 2010 | 5 |
| March 2010 | 15 |
| April 2010 | 13 |
| May 2010 | 11 |
| June 2010 | 7 |
| July 2010 | 5 |
| August 2010 | 16 |
| September 2010 | 4 |
| October 2010 | 3 |
| November 2010 | 4 |
| December 2010 | 7 |

These numbers are based on information derived from a number of sources and can only be an estimate not least because of the difficulties in ensuring a consistent interpretation of the basis for collating statistics in a complex fast-moving multinational operational environment. The numbers may change over time as more information becomes available.

## Aircraft Carriers

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to his Department will be of installing a catapult on the new aircraft carrier in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [45910]

**Peter Luff:** Investigations into the conversion of the operational Queen Elizabeth Class carrier are ongoing and will produce detailed cost estimates when they conclude. We currently expect to take firm decisions on which carrier should be converted, the launch and recovery equipment to be fitted and the overall conversion strategy in late 2012.

The Aircraft Carrier Alliance is fully involved in supporting studies as part of our investigations.

No decisions have yet been taken and our final decision date may change as the investigations progress.

## Amphibious Vehicles

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the construction cost of RFA Largs Bay was; and what its running cost was in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [46289]

**Peter Luff:** It is not possible to separate the costs of procuring RFA Largs Bay as these were part of the Landing Ship Dock (Auxiliary) project which provided a batch of four Bay Class ships. The total procurement cost of the Bay Class of amphibious support ships was £660 million.

The annual running cost of RFA Largs Bay, based on the expenditure incurred by the Department in 2009-10, was approximately £9.5 million. This figure includes maintenance, manpower, inventory expenses, satellite communications and fuel costs, but excludes depreciation.

## Armed Forces: Pensions

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on potential exemption from changes to the indexation of pensions and benefits for *(a)* service widows and *(b)* maimed service personnel; [46461]

(2) pursuant to the contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence of 16 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 1067, what steps his Department is taking to examine the future pensions of *(a)* service widows and *(b)* maimed personnel. [46462]

**Mr Robathan:** I understand the implications of the changes for these particular groups and I am in discussion with the Forces Pension Society on this issue.

## Armed Forces: Redundancy

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the oral statement of 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 815-6W, on armed forces (redundancies), which Minister in his Department is responsible for ensuring that no further army personnel receive notification of redundancy by email. [46083]

**Mr Robathan:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by the Secretary of State for Defence, the right hon. Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox) on 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1248W.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the oral statement of 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 815-6W, on armed forces (redundancies), what arrangements have been put in place to ensure that the correct procedure is followed to notify Army personnel facing redundancy; and who is responsible for the implementation of such a procedure. [46086]

**Mr Robathan** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]*: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1098W).

### Army: Manpower

**Richard Drax:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the size of the Army following the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan. [47350]

**Nick Harvey:** Government policy on the size of the Army is described in the Strategic Defence and Security Review White Paper, 'Securing Britain in an Age of Uncertainty'.

### Atomic Weapons Establishment

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 16 February 2011, *Official Report,* column 805W, on nuclear weapons, what estimate he has made of the likely level of savings to the public purse in *(a)* submarine production, *(b)* the nuclear warhead, *(c)* supporting infrastructure and *(d)* efficiency savings at the Atomic Weapons Establishment in each of the next 10 years. [46025]

**Peter Luff:** I am withholding the information requested, as providing greater details of expected savings would prejudice commercial interests.

### Blue Force

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department had with *(a)* Blue Force Property and *(b)* Blue Force Services (i) before and (ii) since the companies went into liquidation; and if he will make a statement. [41701]

**Mr Robathan** *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* We had some discussions with Blue Forces in the autumn regarding its financial position and its plans for dealing with it. We were not aware prior to the announcement of Blue Forces' plans to go into liquidation and have had no substantive discussion with its managing director since.

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* serving members of HM armed forces and *(b)* former service personnel who entered into property deals with (i) Blue Force Property and (ii) Blue Force Services; what his estimate is of the money lost by serving and former personnel as a result of the liquidation of those companies; and if he will make a statement. [41703]

**Mr Robathan** *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* As this is a private matter, we hold no detailed information on how many service personnel are affected and how much they stand to lose.

### Departmental Expenditure

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each public body sponsored by his Department incurred on engaging external audit services in each of the last three years; and to which service providers such payments were made in each year. [43760]

**Mr Robathan:** Information on auditors' remuneration, including the identity of the auditing organisation, is disclosed in the annual report and accounts of the Department and of those public bodies with an accounts direction from Her Majesty's Treasury.

This information is as follows:

| | | | *Expenditure (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Body* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
| MOD | [1]3,600,000 | [1]3,600,000 | [1]3,600.000 |
| Defence Science and Technology Laboratory | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| Defence Support Group | [2]144,000 | 137,000 | 109,000 |
| Met Office | 79,500 | 79,500 | 75,000 |
| UK Hydrographic Office | 79,000 | 79,000 | 79,000 |
| National Army Museum | 8,450 | 8,650 | 11,650 |
| National Museum of the Royal Navy | [3]— | [3]— | 12,311 |
| Oil and Pipelines Agency | 8,000 | 8,000 | 9,000 |
| Royal Air Force Museum | 13,100 | 13,300 | 18,500 |
| Royal Naval Museum | 8,150 | 8,350 | [4]— |
| Royal Marines Museum | 7,650 | 7,850 | [4]— |
| Royal Navy Submarine Museum | 7,650 | 7,850 | [4]— |
| Fleet Air Arm Museum | 7,850 | 8,050 | [4]— |

[1] Notional charge only. Includes notional audit fees for the Ministry of Defence's Annual Report and Accounts, the Armed Forces Pension Scheme Accounts and the Accounts of the MOD's on-Vote Agencies.

[2] This figure reflects the combined fees paid by the Army Base Repair Organisation and the Defence Aviation Repair Agency before they merged to become the Defence Support Group on 1 April 2008.

[3] Established on 1 April 2009.

[4] Disestablished as non departmental public bodies on 31 March 2009.

The auditing organisation has been the National Audit Office for both the MOD and its public bodies. The National Museum of the Royal Navy has also engaged Baker Tilly UK Audit LLP. The remaining, advisory, non-departmental public bodies sponsored by the MOD lie within the MOD's departmental accounting boundary.

### Departmental Land

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will takes steps to reduce the size of his Department's estate; and if he will make a statement. [45892]

**Mr Robathan:** The Ministry of Defence (MOD) keeps its estate under constant review to meet present and planned future requirements, with a view to disposing of surplus assets as quickly as possible in accordance with Treasury Guidelines (Managing Public Money Annex 4.8). Work is currently ongoing with each of the armed forces to identify additional estate rationalisation opportunities in accordance with the Strategic Defence and Security Review and is due to report in the summer.

The new Defence Infrastructure Organisation will create a single delivery organisation responsible for all infrastructure projects, estates and property management including the 'soft' facilities management such as catering, cleaning and reception services. This approach will better balance defence requirements against available resources and help provide improved support to the delivery of military capability. The change will enable the Ministry of Defence to identify further opportunities to rationalise, utilise or better manage the estate leading to reductions in estate contract and utility costs of £160 million a year by 2014 and estate disposal receipts of over £500 million during the next four years.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has to make budgetary savings in addition to those identified in the Strategic Defence and Security Review in each of the next four years. [45337]

**Dr Fox** *[holding answer 10 March 2011]:* The outcomes of the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) and the spending review form the basis of the Department's annual planning round (PR11), which is ongoing, and premature speculation is not helpful to that process, to our armed forces, or to industry.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department expects to save as a result of the commitment in the strategic defence and security review to reductions in spending on commodities, including substantial savings on food, energy and professional services in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [45749]

**Peter Luff:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 29 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 582W. It is too early to say what potential savings may accrue from the strategic defence and security review (SDSR) in all of the detailed categories listed. A great deal of work is now required to work through the detailed implications of the SDSR decisions and their implementation. We will be providing the fullest possible information as progress is made.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what professional services to his Department he expects to be reduced as a result of commitments in the Strategic Defence and Security Review; and whether any redundancies will result from such reductions. [46470]

**Peter Luff:** It is too early to say what potential savings may accrue in this area from the Strategic Defence and Security Review, but since the commitment to reduce spend on professional services relates to a range of services bought in from the private sector, for example on areas such as consultancy through to specialist technical support, it is unlikely to generate any direct redundancies in the defence workforce. It is not possible to assess any associated redundancies in the private sector. Savings will come both from reduced use of professional services, particularly consultancy, and from getting better rates for the work, including through working with the centralised procurement arrangements being established by the Efficiency and Reform Group to optimise economies of scale.

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the unfunded liability in respect of *(a)* equipment, *(b)* procurement, *(c)* support and *(d)* each other expenditure category in his Department's budget over the next 10 years. [47353]

**Dr Fox:** The unfunded liability of £38 billion was calculated before the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR). The SDSR announced substantial reductions through non-front line savings and efficiencies, as well as reductions to the pre-SDSR planned force structure.

The process of aligning resources and commitments will continue through the current Planning Round.

### Regulation

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what regulations his Department introduced between 9 and 28 February 2011. [47051]

**Mr Robathan:** Between 9 and 28 February 2011, the Ministry of Defence made one new order, namely the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces (Compensation Scheme) Order 2011 (SI 2011/517). This order revokes and re-enacts the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces (Compensation Scheme) 2005, with modifications incorporating the recommendations of the Review of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme by Admiral the Lord Boyce, which was laid before Parliament in February 2010.

An Order in Council relating to service pensions was also made during this period, namely the Naval, Military and Air Forces Etc. (Disablement and Death) Service Pensions (Amendment) Order 2011 (SI 2011/235).

### Devolution

**Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what correspondence he has received from the devolved Administrations on the *(a)* principle and *(b)* implementation of the armed forces covenant and report; and if he will publish each item of correspondence. [42019]

**Mr Robathan** *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* We have corresponded with Ministers in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, advising them of the provisions to be added to the Armed Forces Bill on the Armed Forces Covenant, prior to its introduction to Parliament.

It would not be appropriate to publish their responses without their consent. Officials in the Ministry of Defence are currently in the process of seeking their agreement and if it is obtained a copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

### European Fighter Aircraft

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Indian Government on the sale of tranche 3 Typhoon aircrafts; and if he will make a statement. [46673]

**Peter Luff:** The German Government are leading on the export campaign to supply Typhoon to satisfy the Indian Air Force Medium Multi Role Combat Aircraft competition. The UK Government, through UK Trade and Investment Defence Sales Organisation and the

Ministry of Defence, is supporting this campaign. As part of a ministerial delegation of the Typhoon Partner Nations, I attended the Aero-India 2011 air show in Bangalore in February 2011. While there, I had several meetings with Indian defence ministers and senior officials in support of the Typhoon export campaign. In addition, the Secretary of State for Defence, the right hon. Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), raised Typhoon with his Indian interlocutors during his visit in November 2010.

### France: Nuclear Weapons

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the proposed UK-France treaty on nuclear weapons co-operation, from what date military flights between the UK and France transporting nuclear materials are to commence; and what the proposed flight path of this transport route will be. [46278]

**Dr Fox:** The proposed UK-France treaty on nuclear weapons co-operation provides for the transport of nuclear material between the two countries. No dates or flight paths have yet been agreed but details of such flights would be likely to be withheld for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

### Frigates

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what capabilities the *(a)* Type 22 and *(b)* Type 23 frigate has to act as a flagship. [46298]

**Peter Luff:** The Type 22 frigate can embark a Task Group Commander's staff, able to command small scale joint and maritime operations. The Type 23 frigate does not have the capability or configuration to act as flagship and is not tasked in this way. The new Type 45 destroyers have been designed with the capacity to undertake the flagship role.

A flagship, currently HMS Albion, is always assigned to the Commander UK Task Group.

### Germany: Military Bases

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department will be required to make any payments to the German government under the NATO Status of Forces Agreement and its supplementary agreement in connection with the vacation of military bases in Germany. [45767]

**Nick Harvey:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 582-3, to the hon. Member for Easington (Grahame M. Morris).

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated cost to the public purse is of maintaining and operating bases in Germany in 2010-11. [45768]

**Nick Harvey:** The estimated cost to the public purse of maintaining and operating bases in Germany in 2010-11 is approximately £190 million.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information his Department holds on the relative costs of basing a soldier in *(a)* Germany and *(b)* the UK. [45855]

**Nick Harvey:** The Ministry of Defence holds information on the capitation costs of individual soldiers. This includes their pay, national insurance and pension contributions. This basic cost of a soldier in Germany is comparable to that of a soldier in the UK. Soldiers based in Germany are also paid a local overseas allowance which is calculated according to their rank and personal circumstances.

All soldiers will receive other allowances in addition to their basic pay which are dependent on their personal circumstances and are not directly affected by their posting location.

### Libya: Diplomatic Service

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what dates he discussed the recent diplomatic mission to eastern Libya with the *(a)* Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and *(b)* Prime Minister. [45936]

**Dr Fox** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the statement given by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), to the House on 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-45. Throughout the current situation in Libya there have been frequent ministerial level meetings, including COBR, where I and my Cabinet colleagues have discussed the Government's response to the crisis.

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date he received the submission outlining the intention of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to send a diplomatic mission to eastern Libya. [46372]

**Dr Fox** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the statement given by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), to the House on 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-45. Throughout the current situation in Libya there have been frequent ministerial level meetings, including COBR, where I and my Cabinet colleagues have discussed Her Majesty's Government's response to the crisis. As part of this, there was regular communication between Whitehall Departments including between the Ministry of Defence and Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

### Libya: HMS Cumberland

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what days HMS Cumberland has *(a)* been docked in Benghazi Port and *(b)* been deployed in Libyan territorial waters in 2011; and what the cost to the public purse of such actions has been to date. [46304]

**Dr Fox** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* In 2011, HMS Cumberland was docked in Benghazi port, and deployed in Libyan territorial waters, on Thursday

24 February, Sunday 27 February, and Sunday 6 March during which time she evacuated over 400 entitled persons including over 120 British nationals. The additional costs of the recent deployment to Libya are currently being assessed.

### Libya: Special Forces

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contribution *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department made to the Government's policy on the deployment of special forces in Libya. [46303]

**Dr Fox** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* As the right hon. Member should be aware, the Ministry of Defence has a long-standing policy of not commenting on matters concerning special forces.

### Military Bases

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which barracks his Department is considering for sale or demolition as part of the proposed rationalisation of the defence estate arising from the outcome of the strategic defence and security review. [45873]

**Mr Robathan:** The Ministry of Defence (MOD) keeps its estate under constant review to meet present and planned future requirements, with a view to demolition or disposal of surplus assets as quickly as possible in accordance with Treasury Guidelines (Managing Public Money Annex 4.8). Work is currently ongoing with each of the armed forces to identify additional estate rationalisation opportunities in accordance with the strategic defence and security review and is due to report in the summer.

The new Defence Infrastructure Organisation will create a single delivery organisation responsible for all infrastructure projects, estates and property management including the 'soft' facilities management such as catering, cleaning and reception services. This approach will better balance defence requirements against available resources and help provide improved support to the delivery of military capability. The change will enable the MOD to identify further opportunities to rationalise, utilise or better manage the estate leading to reductions in estate contract and utility costs of £160 million a year by 2014 and estate disposal receipts of over £500 million during the next four years.

### Nimrod Aircraft

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration he has given to the merits of using Nimrod MRA4 aircraft for monitoring flights over the Mediterranean, Libya and North Africa. [47171]

**Dr Fox** *[holding answer 16 March 2011]:* None. The Strategic Defence and Security Review decision not to bring it into service precludes its use in any Defence role.

### Nuclear Submarines: Decommissioning

**Dr Huppert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the projected *(a)* discounted and *(b)* undiscounted nuclear decommissioning costs for the seven Astute-class submarines. [45751]

**Peter Luff:** The Submarine Dismantling Project (SDP) is developing a cost model to inform its planning for the disposal of 27 of the UK's nuclear submarines. The scope of the SDP covers past and current classes, excluding the Astute class, but the project's cost modelling work is intended to inform the development of similar costs for the Astute class. Accordingly, it is not yet possible to provide estimated costs for the Astute class.

### Radioactive Materials: Transport

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on what date the safety case for the new truck cargo heavy duty mark 3 vehicle was approved; [47137]

(2) on what date the truck cargo heavy duty mark 3 vehicle will enter into service; [47138]

(3) on what date the truck cargo heavy duty mark 3 vehicle will replace the former high security vehicles on duties requiring the transport of special nuclear materials; [47139]

(4) whether the practice of displaying radioactive materials hazard warning signs on vehicles carrying special nuclear materials will continue when the truck cargo heavy duty mark 3 vehicle enters into service. [47140]

**Peter Luff:** On current plans, the safety case for the new Truck Cargo Heavy Duty (TCHD) Mark 3 vehicle is expected to be approved in June 2011 ahead of entry into service later in the summer.

It is then planned to commence the replacement of the High Security Vehicle with the TCHD Mark 3 in spring 2012.

The decision on whether to display radioactive materials hazard warning signs on TCHD Mark 3 has not yet been taken.

### Special Forces

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Minister in his Department approved the use of special forces in operations in Libya on 4 March 2011. [47352]

**Dr Fox:** As the hon. Member should be aware, the Ministry of Defence has a long standing policy of not commenting on matters concerning special forces.

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what procedure is followed in his Department for Ministerial clearance for the deployment of UK armed forces. [47354]

**Dr Fox:** The Royal Prerogative provides the mechanism by which the UK Armed Forces can be deployed. The Defence Council, which I chair, provides the formal legal basis for the conduct of Defence in the UK through a range of powers vested in it by Parliament, through statute, and Her Majesty, through Letters Patent and known as prerogative powers.

For overseas operations the political decision to deploy the Armed Forces rests with my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and the Cabinet through their exercise of the Royal Prerogative.

### Strategic Defence and Security Review

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the strategic defence and security review, which capabilities to counter explosive ordnance and improvised explosive devices will receive increased funding from his Department in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [45901]

**Peter Luff:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 30 November 2010, *Official Report,* column 746W.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what equipment will be *(a)* sold *(b)* decommissioned and *(c)* deleted as a result of the commitment in the Strategic Defence and Security Review to rationalise wider equipment holdings. [45909]

**Peter Luff:** This undertaking refers to equipment holdings within Land Forces which were not specifically addressed in the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR), unlike vehicle types like AS90 heavy artillery and Challenger 2 main battle tanks.

Full details of the changes in wider equipment holdings are being prepared as part of the work of SDSR implementation and will be available in due course.

### Trident

**Nick Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent *(a)* in total and *(b)* on (i) design, (ii) purchase of materials and (iii) other categories of expenditure on Trident in each of the last three years. [45213]

**Peter Luff:** I have interpreted this question as relating to the programme to replace the Vanguard class submarines.

Expenditure on this programme for the past three years is as follows:

| | | | | *£ million* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *FY 2008-09* | *FY 2009-10* | *FY 2010-11 (to end February)* | *Total* |
| Design in support of Concept and Common Missile Compartment | 121.1 | 264.4 | 188.4 | 573.9 |
| Purchase of materials | — | — | 6.0 | 6.0 |
| Other categories of expenditure | 17.7 | 24.9 | 24.7 | 67.3 |
| Total | | | | 647.2 |

The bulk of this expenditure has been on design and research activity including technical development programmes to inform the options presented in the initial gate business case. Work undertaken during the concept and assessment phases will provide a robust evidence base on which the Government can take decisions, and in the event of a main gate decision with a like-for-like alternative, the programme will be able to deliver on time and to budget.

### WE 177 Nuclear Bomb

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse of the WE.177 missile programme was *(a)* in cash terms and *(b)* in 2011 prices up to the date of its withdrawal from service; and what the cost of procurement of each missile was. [46277]

**Peter Luff:** I will write to the hon. Member, as the information requested may take some time to retrieve from archive.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Ofcom: Consultants

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 11 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 472W, on Ofcom: consultants, on what services Ofcom's £6.7 million expenditure in 2009-10 on consultancy professional specialist was spent; which companies provided each such service; how many hours each such provider worked on the provision of such services; and what estimate he has made of the number of staff involved in provision of such services. [45771]

**Mr Vaizey** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* Ofcom made use of 163 professional consultancies (non-procurement framework) in 2009-10 as part of its overall annual programme of work. The table sets out the suppliers used, the services provided and the total sums paid.

Information provided to Ofcom as part of a tendering process is commercially sensitive. Ofcom is unable to provide a more detailed breakdown of the number of hours worked and staff provided by each supplier since disclosure of this may compromise future tendering processes.

| *Vendor* | *Description* | *Total (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 3 Reasons Ltd | Media and telecoms strategy advice | 5,288 |
| Advanced Top Development & Images | Technical Spectrum advice | 237,763 |

| *Vendor* | *Description* | *Total (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Aegis Systems Ltd | Spectrum technology research | 17,250 |
| Aidan Elliott | Internal communications advice and implementation | 1,691 |
| Alan Fellows Associates Ltd | Technical Spectrum advice | 3,856 |
| Alderman Limited | Strategic regulation advice | 2,875 |
| Allen & Overy | Commercial and procurement advice | (142) |
| Alterian (Newbury) Ltd | Media consultancy | 546 |
| AMTEC Consulting Plc | IS programming | 30,761 |
| Analysys Mason Ltd | TV technical, economic and policy advice. | 39,721 |
| Andrew Chesher | Broadcasting policy relating consultancy | 1,380 |
| AON Ltd (Redhill) | Insurance related services | 5,575 |
| Arqiva | Spectrum clearance activities, planning and advice | 1,285,667 |
| Artemis International Corporation Ltd | Software solutions | 1,035 |
| Atner Associates Ltd | TV policy advice | 1,500 |
| BAFTA Management Ltd | Telecoms policy advice | 12,938 |
| Barclay Associates Ltd | Spectrum related advice | 9,979 |
| BDG workfutures | Premises advice | 3,495 |
| BDO Stoy Hayward LLP | Tax advice, telecoms accounting advice, and spectrum clearance advice | 70,186 |
| Bentley Associates | Investigations advice | 9,720 |
| Best Foot Forward Ltd | Carbon audit and ecological footprint | 16,172 |
| Bloomberg LP | Accounting and market data services | 12,344 |
| Blue Moth Ltd | Spectrum technical advice | 52,420 |
| Bob Foss | Strategic Spectrum advice | 78,120 |
| Bristows | Spectrum clearance advice | 88,038 |
| British Broadcasting Corporation | Spectrum clearance planning, activities and advice | 77,378 |
| Canaleon Ltd | Technical Spectrum clearance advice | 50,517 |
| Capgemini | IS technical work | (23,966) |
| Cary Bazalgette | Media literacy advice | 1,000 |
| Central Office of Information | Marketing and communication | 4,053 |
| Change Agency (UK) Ltd | Consultancy for digital participation consortium | 100,196 |
| Claire Milne Antelope Consulting | Telecoms policy consultancy | 5,980 |
| Clarus Design Consultancy Ltd | Design work | 932 |
| Cleo Sylvestre | Diversity research | 350 |
| Cromwell Associates Ltd | Site inspection | 86 |
| David G. Money | Spectrum clearance advice | 23,163 |
| Deloitte & Touche LLP | Spectrum clearance activities, advice and planning | 412,772 |
| Denton Business Services Ltd | Premises advice | 4,370 |
| Digital UK | Spectrum clearance activities | 144,432 |
| Dotecon Ltd | Spectrum auction expertise | 31,630 |
| Dotted Eyes Ltd | Software solutions | 3,835 |
| E2 Systems Ltd | IS Testing | (6,169) |
| Edward Rushton | Telecoms strategy advice | 58,649 |
| eGourmet Ltd | Telecoms consumer research | 24,071 |
| Ember Services Ltd | Telecoms policy consultancy | 12,741 |
| Enders Analysis Ltd | Media strategy advice and research | 5,001 |
| ERA Technology Ltd | Technical Spectrum work and technology research | 96,094 |
| Erkmar Ltd | Technical equipment advice | 19,123 |
| ETC Venues Ltd | Premises activities | 1,139 |
| Europa Technologies Ltd | Technology research | 2,760 |
| Europe Economics | Spectrum economic advice | 58,069 |
| European Policy Forum | Telecoms policy advice | 17,250 |
| Euro-Tec | Investigations activities | 4,661 |
| Fishburn Hedges Boys Williams Ltd | Spectrum clearance activities | 66,717 |
| Fletcher Priest Architects LLP | Premises advice | 4,893 |
| Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) | Translation services | 5,447 |
| Forman Computer Staff Ltd | IS software solutions and activities | 72,750 |
| Frank B. Dehn & Co. | Legal intellectual property advice | 6,831 |
| Frank Verboven | Mobile and TV economic advice | 5,005 |
| George & Lennard Associates | Telecoms research and policy analysis | (583) |
| GfK NOP Media | Consumer research | 23,316 |
| GfK Retail and Technology UK Ltd | Telecoms market research | 6,986 |
| GR Media UK Ltd | Media research | 20,470 |
| Grant Dawe LLP | Legal advice for investigations | 2,644 |

| *Vendor* | *Description* | *Total (£)* |
|---|---|---:|
| Grapevine Search & Selection Ltd | Office support temp search | (27) |
| Harry McConnell | HR employment advice | 14,526 |
| Hays Office Support | IS programmers | 72,080 |
| Helios Technology Ltd | Technical Spectrum advice | 46,138 |
| I.D.AT.E. | Telecoms market data and research | 40,583 |
| i2 Media Research Ltd | Spectrum consumer research | 26,738 |
| Ian Cooper | Competition pensions advice | 45,928 |
| iBurbia Limited | Media research and advice | 14,488 |
| IDC UK Ltd | Media research, data and advice | 5,750 |
| Ideas Unlimited TV Ltd | Technology research and advice | 10,120 |
| IET Services Ltd | Technical networks forum | 8,813 |
| Institution of Engineering & Techno | Programme management activities | 29,622 |
| Isotek Electronics Ltd | Spectrum technology research | 793 |
| Item Consulting & Services Ltd | Design work | 1,380 |
| Ivetsey Communications Ltd | BT adjudicator | 415,786 |
| Julian Franks | Financial telecoms consulting | 19,690 |
| Knight Frank LLP | Premises activities | 760 |
| KPMG LLP | Economic analysis, and internal audit work | 49,577 |
| Lane Clark & Peacock LLP | Pensions advice | (695) |
| Law Debenture Pension Trust Corporation | Professional pension trustee governance | 139,379 |
| LECG Ltd | Economic analysis | 35,511 |
| Lizloenard Media | Media literacy work | 7,361 |
| London Economics | Economic analysis and research | 110,225 |
| LS Telcom AG | IS programming and support | 206,376 |
| Maritime Spectrum Working Group | Technical Spectrum advice | 2,115 |
| Mayer Brown International LLP | Pension advice | 14,278 |
| McGrigors Belfast LLP | Procurement and commercial advice | 10,763 |
| Mediatique Ltd | Strategy and research advice | 92,384 |
| Meeting Deadlines Ltd | Software solution | 1,610 |
| Mercer (Switzerland) SA | Consultancy | 700 |
| Merrill Legal Solutions | Legal support | 717 |
| Milner Company Marketing LLP | Spectrum market analysis | 6,239 |
| Mitie Ltd | Premises equipment and activities | 1,293 |
| Morgan Stanley & Co Ltd | Spectrum activities | (61,656) |
| Mott MacDonald Ltd | Technology research | 17,396 |
| MTM London Ltd | Media and market analysis | 46,000 |
| National Audit Office | Audit of IFRS trigger point 4 | 13,000 |
| National Economic Research Association | Economic analysis | 2,838 |
| NCC Services Ltd | IS support services | 36,686 |
| NICC Standards Ltd | Technical networks forum | (1,294) |
| Northgate | Payroll solutions provider | (40) |
| Official Charts Company | Media analysis | 2,644 |
| Oliva Lawson | Internal communications analysis | 1,800 |
| Oliver & Ohlbaum Associates Ltd | Media analysis and research | 48,751 |
| Opinion Leader Research Ltd | Consumer research | 20,007 |
| Oracle Corporation UK Ltd | Software solutions | (1,829) |
| Osirian Consulting Ltd | IS programming and support | 16,513 |
| Outsights Ltd | Sector analysis and research | 17,250 |
| Ovum Ltd | Strategy and market analysis | 17,625 |
| PA Consulting Group | IS support and programme management advice | 449,362 |
| Parity Resources Ltd | IT system services | 130,931 |
| Peter Cramton | Spectrum economic analysis | 5,485 |
| PFT Ltd | Employee and pensions advice | 6,550 |
| Pharos 8 Ltd | Organisational development | 2,645 |
| Phil Davidson Associates | Spectrum activities | 29,991 |
| Planned Action Ltd | Insurance advice | 1,380 |
| Plum Consulting | Spectrum technology research | 44,100 |
| Progressive Computer Recruitment Ltd | IS resource solutions | 44,291 |
| Pure Pricing Ltd | Economic analysis | 10,575 |
| QCG Ltd | HR consultancy | 3,819 |
| Quiddity Solutions | HR development advice | 758 |
| Radio Systems Information Ltd | Technical Spectrum advice | 7,259 |

| *Vendor* | *Description* | *Total (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Rational Energy Ltd | Economic analysis | 525 |
| Real Wireless Ltd | Technical Spectrum advice | 177,315 |
| Richard Carter | Telecoms policy advice | 166 |
| RKnight Consulting Ltd | Spectrum clearance activities | 32,746 |
| Ruth Evans | Consumer representation following postal services integration | 1,120 |
| SamKnows Ltd | Telecoms market data and analysis | 107,334 |
| Saxonbury Services Ltd | HR Development advice | 5,988 |
| Secured by Design Ltd | Security design activities | 2,465 |
| Selex Sistemi Integration Ltd | Technology research | 63,043 |
| Sherbourne Consultancy | Organisational development activates | 8,671 |
| Sian Evans | Media consultancy | 24,513 |
| Simon Carne | Competition pensions advice | 21,554 |
| Simon Fonebi | Licensing analysis | 19,650 |
| Smith Institute | Software testing of Spectrum auction platform | 32,633 |
| Specialist Computer Centres | Software solutions activities | 3,105 |
| Spitfire Communications Limited | Diversity advice | 3,910 |
| Square One Resources Ltd | IS Temp support | 15,606 |
| Stern Consultancy Ltd | Catering management advice | (8) |
| Steve Carter | Telecoms technical activities | 59,300 |
| Steven J. Barnett | Media analysis | 2,400 |
| Strategic IT Consulting | IS systems advice | 34,870 |
| Strategy Analytics (SA Teligen) | Market research | 43,125 |
| Sweet & Maxwell Ltd | HR data and analysis | 549 |
| Synovate Ltd | Consumer research | 103,458 |
| Thales Research & Technology (UK) Ltd | Spectrum technical research | 21,151 |
| The Brattle Group | Economic analysis | 11,801 |
| The Writer Ltd | Editing consultancy | 2,964 |
| Think Indigo | PC support | 1,725 |
| Tommaso Valletti | Economic analysis | 7,868 |
| Total Conflict Management Ltd | HR advice | 6,363 |
| Total Reporting & Quality Solutions | Operations analysis | 15,532 |
| Towers Watson | Pensions and actuarial advice | 621,151 |
| TrinityStar Services Ltd | Technical Spectrum advice | 995 |
| University of Warwick | Economic analysis | 45,799 |
| User37 Ltd | Media activities | 74,395 |
| Verint Systems UK Ltd | IS analysis | 58,225 |
| Watermark & Co. | Consumer panel policy advice | 15,275 |
| Journal: Re-categorisation of cost for IS transformation programme | Journal: Re-categorisation of cost for IS transformation programme | (597,042) |
| Journal: Re-categorisation of costs for Olympics Programme | Journal: Re-categorisation of costs for Olympics Programme | (58,317) |
| Journal: Accounting adjustments | Journal: Accounting adjustments | (1,101) |
| | | 6,667,426 |

## Arts: Finance

**Gavin Williamson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much Arts Council England spent on grants to projects in 2009-10. [45805]

**Mr Vaizey:** Arts Council England has supplied 2009-10 grant spend, which includes both grants to projects and to regularly funded organisations, as follows:

| *Projects* | *£000* |
|---|---|
| Net grant in aid commitments (including regular funding to organisations) | 417,555 |
| Net lottery grant commitments | 143,203 |
| Total | 560,758 |

## Broadband: Contracts

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many local authorities have issued tender documents for contracts to provide high-speed broadband services to date. [46791]

**Mr Vaizey** *[holding answer 15 March 2011]:* In recent years a number of local authorities have issued tenders for contracts to provide high-speed broadband, which vary in scale and in some instances the procurement was for an exclusive public sector network (PSNs) and in others there was provision for wider use. Since responsibility lies with the local procuring authority there was no requirement to notify individual procurements and while Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) are aware of the major PSNs and public initiatives by local authorities there is no central record of every small scale local procurement.

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many local authorities in England have issued tenders for contracts for the provision of high-speed broadband. [47362]

**Mr Vaizey:** In recent years a number of local authorities have issued tenders for contracts to provide high-speed broadband, which vary in scale and in some instances the procurement was for an exclusive public sector network (PSNs) and in others there was provision for wider use. Since responsibility lies with the local procuring authority there was no requirement to notify individual procurements and while Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) are aware of the major PSNs and public initiatives by local authorities there is no central record of every local procurement.

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has for local authorities to issue tenders for contracts for the provision of high-speed broadband in England. [47363]

**Mr Vaizey:** Responsibility for contract tenders lies with the local procuring authorities. Guidance on the content of local broadband plans which are to form the basis of a submission to Broadband Delivery UK was issued on 7 March 2011.

### Broadband: Scotland

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 611W, on broadband: public expenditure, what assessment he has made of the effects on the pilot project in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland of restrictions on the use of BT's ducts and poles. [45951]

**Mr Vaizey** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* No such assessment has been made. The Highlands and Islands project will be subject to open procurement procedures which have to be technology neutral. British Telecom's (BT) ducts and poles are being made available for use by competitors. Reference offers were submitted by BT in January and these are the subject of industry consultation at the moment

### Departmental Assets

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether receipts from the sale of assets owned by regional development agencies are reflected in the spending plans of his Department for *(a)* 2012-13 and *(b)* 2013-14. [47417]

**John Penrose:** The Department does not benefit from any sale of assets by regional development agencies and has not made any assumption of receipts from them in its spending plans.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on *(a)* salaries and *(b)* pension entitlements for special advisers in the financial year 2010-11 to date. [46582]

**John Penrose:** Special advisers' pay bands and actual salary, where this is £58,200 or higher, are published by the Cabinet Office in accordance with the Government's transparency agenda and can be found at the following link:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

Special advisers' salaries are pensionable under the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme.

### Departmental Procurement

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) how many procurement projects with a monetary value greater than *(a)* £10 million, *(b)* £50 million and *(c)* £100 million (i) his Department and (ii) each non-departmental public body and agency for which he is responsible was engaged upon in the latest period for which figures are available; [45553]

(2) which procurement projects engaged upon by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental public body and agency for which he is responsible had a designated senior responsible owner in the latest period for which figures are available; and on what date each officer was appointed in each such case. [45554]

**John Penrose:** The Department has not engaged upon any procurement projects with a monetary value greater than £10 million in 2009-10 and 2010-11 (to date).

The Department does not collate this information for its agency or non-departmental public bodies. Accordingly, I have asked their chief executives to write to my hon. Friend.

Copies of the replies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Departmental Public Consultation

**Alok Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many public consultations his Department has conducted in each of the last 10 years; for how long each consultation was open; how many responses were received to each consultation; and what the cost to the public purse of conducting each consultation was. [46592]

**John Penrose:** There have been 185 Department consultations since 2000, information can be accessed on our current website and UK Government web archive:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/consultations/default.aspx

The number of responses from May 2010 are available at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/consultations/6566.aspx

Responses before May 2010 and all costs are not held centrally and it would be at disproportionate cost to collate this information for the last 10 years.

### Regulation

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what regulations his Department *(a)* introduced between 4 February and 28 February 2011 and *(b)* repealed between 2 February and 28 February 2011. [45978]

**John Penrose:** The following instruments sponsored by the Department have been made between 2 February and 28 February 2011:

1. The Films Co-Production Agreements (Amendment) Order 2011 (SI 2011/236); and

2. The Horserace Betting and Olympic Lottery Act 2004 (Commencement No.4) Order 2011 (SI 2011/462 (C.17)).

During the same period the following instrument was revoked:

1. The Films Co-Production Agreements (Amendment) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/3009).

### Departmental Written Questions

**Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what proportion of written questions tabled to him for answer on a named day did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer between 27 May 2010 and 9 March 2011. [46555]

**John Penrose:** The Department received 271 named day questions for answer during the period between 27 May 2010 and 9 March 2011. Of these 56 (20.66%) did not receive a substantive answer on the named day. The Department is very aware of the importance of answering parliamentary questions on time and we endeavour to answer all named day parliamentary questions on the day specified but if this is not possible then we aim to send out a substantive reply as soon as is practicable.

"The Government has committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to Written Parliamentary Question performance on a sessional basis. Statistics relating to Government Department's performance for the 2009/10 session were recently provided to the committee and are available on the Parliament website."

### Gambling

**Fiona O'Donnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he plans to respond to his Department's consultation on remote gambling; and if he will make a statement. [47280]

**John Penrose:** I continue to speak to key stakeholders about the issues raised in the Department's consultation and hope to make an announcement in due course.

### Holiday Accommodation: Standards

**Mr Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) with reference to the Government Tourism Policy of March 2011, what assessment he has made of the likely future availability across the UK of accurate information relating to the facilities and performance of self-catering holiday properties under his proposals for accommodation quality rating schemes; [46657]

(2) with reference to the Government Tourism Policy of March 2011, what assessment he has made of the *(a)* market penetration, *(b)* accuracy and *(c)* reliability of information relating to self-catering accommodation posted on visitor accommodation websites with user-generated content; [46658]

(3) with reference to the Government Tourism Policy of March 2011, whether he has assessed the potential vulnerability to malware of hotel review websites with user-generated content; [46659]

(4) with reference to the Government Tourism Policy of March 2011, what mechanisms he plans to use to set benchmarks for *(a)* improvements in standards of visitor accommodation and *(b)* quality comparisons between the UK and its constituent parts and overseas; [46660]

(5) with reference to the Government Tourism Policy of March 2011, what assessment he has made of the contribution of Hospitality Assured accreditation to the objectives of National Tourist Boards in respect of the visitor economy; [46662]

(6) with reference to the Government Tourism Policy of March 2011, what the quantitative evidential basis is for the assessment that consumer-led websites offer significant potential to drive up standards; and what measures he plans to use to measure consequent trends in hotel standards. [46665]

**John Penrose:** Pursuant to my answer of 2 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 819W, and the Westminster Hall debate on 15 February 2011, tourism is a devolved matter and the operation of the quality schemes in each of the home countries is a matter for their respective Governments. As made clear in the Government's Tourism Policy published on 4 March, we do not intend to abolish the rating schemes in England, but given the number of participants in the schemes in recent years, particularly in the guest accommodation sector, the Government believe a different approach needs to be considered in order to help drive up quality. We strongly believe that both the tourism industry and consumers should take more responsibility for quality assessment. This includes tracking changes in trends in quality, if the information is commercially useful to them or to their customers; if it isn't then there's no point in Government doing it instead.

The wide and growing popularity of websites offering feedback from customers is clear from industry figures on their usage. Their content is not regulated any more closely than any other part of the web, and we have no plans to do so. Web users make their own judgments about the quality and accuracy of any information they find, and rapidly switch to alternative sites if they offer something better.

The Government will continue to give encouragement to any rating schemes or customer websites which improve the quality of information which visitors can use.

### Irish Language

**Ms Ritchie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what progress he has made in his Department's responsibilities for language maintenance and development under the European Charter for Minority or Indigenous Languages in respect of the Irish language. [47174]

**Mr Vaizey** *[holding answer 16 March 2011]*: The Communications Act (2003) and the BBC's Charter and Agreement contain requirements to cater for cultural interests throughout the UK.

The 1998 Belfast/Good Friday agreement contained the obligation to extend the Irish language channel TG4 to audiences in Northern Ireland. In February 2010, the UK and Irish Government signed a memorandum of understanding designed to ensure co-operation over digital switchover and the provision of Irish language services in Northern Ireland in a digital form. Since then considerable progress has been made in making arrangements with the Irish authorities for the broadcasting of TG4, an Irish language television service, in digital form in Northern Ireland to coincide with digital switchover in the latter part of 2012.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Bridgend of 23 November 2010, reference MM/JH/22/11/2010. [46275]

**John Penrose:** The Department has conducted a thorough check and has no record of receiving this letter. If the hon. Member could submit a copy of her letter I will ensure a timely response is sent.

### Ofcom: Legal Costs

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport with reference to Ofcom's supplementary written evidence to the Public Accounts Committee on expenditure 2009-10, with which companies the *(a)* £0.8 million expenditure on legal non-policy and *(b)* £0.6 million on legal policy was spent; and what services were provided to Ofcom as a result of such expenditure. [45773]

**Mr Vaizey** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]*: Ofcom have advised that the companies involved in expenditure of this nature are set out in the table:

| *Supplier* | *Total (£)* | *Note* |
|---|---|---|
| ABV Solicitors | 16,595 | The legal policy[1] |
| Allen & Overy | 197,416 | Employment law |
| Allen Hirson | 1,035 | The legal policy[1] |
| Blackstone Chambers | 345 | The legal policy[1] |
| Bristows | 83,769 | The legal policy[1] |
| Burges Salmon LLP | 66,388 | The legal policy[1] |
| Chambers of Michael Hubbard | 17,300 | The legal policy[1] |
| Clarke Willmot | (2,874) | Property law |
| Collyer Bristow LLP Solicitors | 56,805 | Property law |
| Denton Wilde Sapte | 5,499 | Property law |
| E Rex Makin & Co. | 667 | The legal policy[1] |
| Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer | 55,219 | Employment law |
| Her Majesty's Courts Service | 2,090 | The legal policy[1] |
| John McCormack | 5,151 | The legal policy[1] |
| Johnson & Gaunt Solicitors | 403 | Employment law |
| Lane Clark & Peacock LLP | 8,775 | Pension advice |
| Lester Maddrell | 7,171 | The legal policy[1] |
| MacRoberts LLP | (38) | Property law |
| McGrigors Belfast LLP | 155,729 | Commercial and Procurement advice |
| Monckton Chambers | 426 | The legal policy[1] |
| Nabarro LLP | 22,152 | Commercial and Procurement advice |
| Norrie Waite and Slater Solicitors | 1,202 | The legal policy[1] |
| Russell Jones & Walker | 2,875 | Employment law |
| SNR Denton UK LLP | (975) | Property law |
| Spence & Home Solicitors | 403 | Employment law |
| Sweet & Maxwell Ltd. | 600 | Employment law |
| Towers Watson | 40,989 | Pension advice |
| Underwood & Co. | (6,165) | Property law |
| Accounting adjustments | 32,815 | Accruals and adjustments |
| Total legal (non policy) | 771,765 | |

| *Supplier* | *Total (£)* | *Note* |
|---|---|---|
| Allen & Overy | (28,920) | Employment law |
| Arnold & Porter UK LLP | 9,083 | The legal policy[1] |
| Blackstone Chambers | 209,206 | The legal policy[1] |
| Brick Court Chambers | 25,034 | The legal policy[1] |
| Denton Wilde Sapte | 881 | Debt collection advice |
| Cough Square Chambers | 23,407 | The legal policy[1] |
| Grant Dawe LLP | 7,203 | The legal policy[1] |
| Julian Franks | 13,294 | The legal policy[1] |
| Keltie | 1,436 | The legal policy[1] |
| Ken Baublys | 525 | The legal policy[1] |
| LS Telcom | (2,013) | IS services |
| Maples and Calder | 174 | The legal policy[1] |
| Merrill Legal Solutions | 557 | The legal policy[1] |
| Michael Simkins LLP | 14,722 | The legal policy[1] |
| Monckton Chambers | 544,667 | The legal policy[1] |
| Nabarro LLP | 42,433 | Commercial and Procurement advice |
| Prodigy internet Ltd | (1,639) | The legal policy[1] |
| Simmons & Simmons | 4,593 | The legal policy[1] |
| Taylor Wessing LLP. | 1,438 | The legal policy[1] |
| Underwood & Co | 1,880 | Property law |
| Accounting adjustments | (139,348) | Accruals adjustments |
| Net costs awarded in favour of Ofcom | (122,822) | Net costs awarded to Ofcom |
| One Brick Court | 8,049 | The legal policy[1] |
| Total legal (policy) | 613,841 | The legal policy[1] |
| | | |
| Total legal | 1,385,606 | |

[1] The legal policy expenditure comprises:
External counsel to assist Ofcom's internal legal team in preparing for and defending appeals against Ofcom's public policy decisions and to appear as representatives for Ofcom in courts;
A lesser amount is spend on securing a second opinion to that of Ofcom's internal legal team and general counsel on particularly complex questions of statutory interpretation.

### Ofcom: Official Hospitality

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport with reference to Ofcom's supplementary written evidence to the Public Accounts Committee on expenditure 2009-10, with which companies the £1.8 million expenditure on outsourcing special events was spent; and what services were provided to Ofcom as a result of such expenditure. [45770]

**Mr Vaizey** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]*: Under the Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994, Ofcom has put in place an agreement with JFMG Ltd for the provision of spectrum licensing services in respect of Programme Making and Special Events (PMSE). The Contracting Out (Functions relating to Wireless Telegraphy) Order 1996 (SI 1996 no. 2290) enables this arrangement. License fees collected by JFMG Ltd under the Wireless Telegraphy Act are passed to the Consolidated Fund. Ofcom are invoiced by JFMC Ltd for this activity in line with the terms of the agreement. Ofcom paid £1.8 million (including VAT) to JFMC Ltd during the course of 2009-10 under this agreement.

### Sports: Dartford

**Gareth Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department is taking steps to support grassroots and community sport in Dartford constituency. [46419]

**Hugh Robertson:** Sport England is the arm's length body with responsibility for community sport. Its aim is to increase and sustain levels of participation in sport.

National Governing Bodies of sport are responsible for the strategy, delivering through their networks of community clubs, coaches and volunteers, across all parts of the country. Sport England is investing £480 million through 46 governing bodies over the next four years and has agreed 'grow' and 'sustain' targets with each one. Each sport has developed a whole sport plan to achieve these targets.

Additionally, the £135 million Mass Participation Olympic Legacy—Places People Play—was launched in November 2010 and will benefit residents of Dartford and the country more widely. This programme will be funded by lottery money and has been developed in partnership with Sport England, the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the British Olympic Association, and the British Paralympic Association.

As part of their Iconic Facilities programme, Sport England has invested £1 million towards the development of a 43 hectare sports park to offer a comprehensive range of cycle sport disciplines and other related sports. The Kent county council led project will be of direct benefit to the Dartford constituents, located close to the A2 to the south of Gravesend.

In addition, since 2001, the Dartford constituency has seen a total of £861,370 of Exchequer funding and £102,503 of lottery funding invested through Sport England.

### Tourism: Public Holidays

**Mr Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) with reference to the Government Tourism Policy of March 2011, whether he has undertaken an assessment of the potential asymmetrical effects on tourism businesses in different parts of the UK of moving the May day bank holiday to October; [46663]

(2) what steps he plans to take to measure the *(a)* visitor preference and *(b)* projected revenue for the visitor economy associated with the proposed move of the May day bank holiday to October; and whether he plans to market-test the popularity of the proposal and the proposed designations for the October holiday in (i) Scotland, (ii) England, (iii) Wales and (iv) Northern Ireland; [46664]

(3) whether he plans to take account of the traditional pattern of school holidays in the autumn in Scotland when assessing the *(a)* merits and *(b)* likely effect on tourism businesses of moving the May day bank holiday to October. [46666]

**John Penrose:** The Government recognise that the May day bank holiday is important to many, which is why we are planning to consult with all sectors of industry as well as with voluntary and community sector organisations, to assess any potential benefits of moving it. The Government also understand the need to ensure that public holiday dates reflect the priorities and preferences of the whole of the UK. Consequently, we will consult with the devolved Administrations to ensure that changes to public holidays are made only if they are likely to enjoy widespread public support.

### Tourism: Publications

**Mr Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport for what reason the Government Tourism Policy published on 4 March 2011 was unavailable on his Department's website on the day of launch; and for what reason his Department has not supplied copies to the Vote Office for distribution to hon. Members. [46661]

**John Penrose:** Private sector publishing software failed outside the hours of technical support and nothing could be published to the website for a period of time. The problem could not be fixed by the Information and Communications Technology service managers and had to be referred to the software supplier. The strategy was published and available on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's website from approximately 11am on 4 March 2011, which was as soon as the fix had been applied for the problem diagnosed.

For reasons of cost savings and efficiency, the document was produced solely in digital form and no copies of the Government's Tourism Policy were therefore supplied to the Vote Office. The document may now be downloaded from the departmental website.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Counter-terrorism

**Yvette Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects her Department's review of the Contest programme indicated in its business plan to begin. [45461]

**Mrs May** *[holding answer 10 March 2011]:* Work to revise the Contest counter-terrorism strategy (action 6.4 of the Home Office business plan) started in November 2010.

### Departmental Assets

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether receipts from the sale of assets owned by regional development agencies are reflected in the spending plans of her Department for *(a)* 2012-13 and *(b)* 2013-14. [47408]

**Damian Green:** The Home Office does not have any sales of assets owned by regional development agencies factored into its spending plans.

## Departmental Public Consultation

**Alok Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many public consultations her Department has conducted in each of the last 10 years; for how long each consultation was open; how many responses were received to each consultation; and what the cost to the public purse was of conducting each consultation. [46591]

**Damian Green:** According to the Home Office website:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100418065544/
http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/haveyoursay/
index.html

the following number of Home Office consultation papers have been selected for preservation by the National Archives:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2009 | 16 |
| 2008 | 20 |
| 2007 | 20 |
| 2006 | 23 |
| 2005 | 25 |
| 2004 | 26 |
| 2003 | 26 |
| 2002 | 18 |
| 2001 | 18 |
| 2000 | 11 |

The website shows a snapshot of records taken on 5 March 2010 and in each case the consultation is listed according the calendar year in which the consultation closed rather than its date of publication. Figures for 2010 and 2011 are not centrally available.

The Department does not keep a central record of how long each consultation was open, how many responses were received and the cost to the public purse. To attempt to calculate these for each of the 203 documents listed above would entail disproportionate costs.

## Domestic Violence

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to support victims of domestic violence. [47430]

**Lynne Featherstone:** The Government are committed to tackling domestic violence. On 8 March 2011 we published a detailed action plan supporting our "Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls" narrative published on 25 November 2010.

Some of the key actions we are taking forward in relation to domestic violence include:

Providing over £28 million of stable Home Office funding for specialist services to support victims of domestic and sexual abuse over the next four years. This includes areas to support independent domestic violence adviser (IDVA) posts, and the role of multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) co-ordinators.

We will make over £900,000 available per year over the next four years to support national helplines including the National Domestic Violence Helpline, the Men's Advice Line and Broken Rainbow.

A 12-month pilot of Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPNs) and Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs).

Support for victims of domestic violence who are on migrant spouse's visas and are forced to flee their home while their immigration claims are dealt with.

Full details of the action plan can be found at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/vawg

## Firearms

**Damian Collins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department between what dates the sodium rhodizonate test was used by the Metropolitan Police Forensic Science Laboratory to detect firearms discharge residue. [46963]

**James Brokenshire** *[holding answer 15 March 2011]:* Sodium rhodizonate testing remains in use as a forensic technique. The Metropolitan Police Forensic Science Laboratory merged with the Forensic Science Service in 1996 and would have been using this test until that point. Information on the date that this test was introduced is not held by the Home Office. I have asked the Forensic Science Service to check their historical records and write to my hon. Friend with the date when this test was introduced.

## Human Trafficking

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to implement Article 6 of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings in relation to the incorporation of study of human trafficking in statutory schooling. [47130]

**Damian Green:** The UK has an obligation under the Council of Europe Convention to provide educational programmes for young people during their schooling, emphasising the unacceptable nature of discrimination based on gender, the consequences thereof, gender equality and the dignity and integrity of every human being.

The non-statutory framework for Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE) at Key Stages 3 and 4 provide opportunities for young people to explore such issues as:

the similarities, differences and diversity among people of different race, culture, ability, disability, gender, age and sexual orientation;

the impact of prejudice, bullying discrimination and racism on individuals and communities;

characteristics of positive relationships, and awareness of exploitation in relationships and of statutory and voluntary organisations that support relationships in crisis; and,

the need to take the initiative in challenging this and other offensive behaviours and in giving support to victims of abuse.

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to take steps in accordance with the requirements of Article 5 of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings in the next 12 months. [47131]

**Damian Green:** We keep our compliance with the Council of Europe convention under review.

Prevention of human trafficking will be a central part of the new strategy which will be published in the spring.

## Imitation Firearms

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations her Department has received from *(a)* police organisations, *(b)* medical professionals and *(c)* others on legislation on the sale, ownership and use of BB guns. [45940]

**James Brokenshire** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* The term 'BB gun' is commonly used to refer to airsoft guns. The Home Office has received no recent formal representations on their sale, ownership and use. They are subject to the provisions of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 to the extent they are imitation firearms.

## Northumbria Police: Overtime

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many overtime hours were paid to *(a)* warranted officers and *(b)* civilian staff of Northumbria Police Force in each of the last three years; and what the total cost to the public purse was of such overtime in each such year. [46537]

**Nick Herbert:** The Home Office does not hold information about the number of overtime hours worked by police officers and police staff. Data on the total amount of overtime paid to police officers and staff are published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). The data for Northumbria police in each of the three most recent financial years are shown in the following table:

*£000*

| *Financial year* | *Officer overtime spend* | *Staff overtime spend* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 7,878 | [1]1,318 |
| 2008-09 | 7,424 | 1,178 |
| 2009-10 | 8,138 | 1,159 |

[1] Checked with Northumbria police.

*Source:*

CIPFA Actuals

## Passport Office: Closures

**Mrs Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the compliance of her Department's consultation on the closure of Newport Passport Office with the Government's code of practice on consultation. [47400]

**Damian Green:** The Identity and Passport Service is conducting a collective consultation with staff and trade unions on the proposed closure of the application processing centre at Newport. The consultation period ends on 18 March 2011 and has been carried out under the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992, as amended by the Collective Redundancies and Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (Amendment) Regulations 1995. The consultation has followed the guidance issued by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) on conducting a collective consultation.

## Police

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether it is her policy that after May 2012 chief constables should be able to enter into significant contracts without the prior authority of police commissioners. [40245]

**Nick Herbert** *[holding answer 11 February2011]:* This is not the Government's intention. We are considering further the proposed arrangements for chief constables' ability to enter into contracts, in the light of debate on the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill, and representations on the issue.

**Vernon Coaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish each response to her Department's consultation on Policing in the 21st Century. [46790]

**Nick Herbert** *[holding answer 15 Mach 2011]:* The Home Office has an obligation to those who responded to the consultation to review all responses and ensure any disclosure of information protects individuals' interests under the Data Protection Act 1998. As nearly 900 responses were received, it was estimated that the cost of analysing them in line with these obligations would be prohibitive. The Government published a consultation response, which summarised the responses and the Government's position on them. This is available on the Home Office website.

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in each police force hold the rank of sergeant. [46795]

**Nick Herbert** *[holding answer 15 March 2011]:* The latest available data are provided in the table which shows the number of police officers in each police force who hold the rank of sergeant as at 30 September 2010 (full-time equivalents).

*The number of police officers in each police force who hold the rank of sergeant as at 30 September 2010 (full-time equivalents)*

| | *Sergeant* |
|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 484 |
| Bedfordshire | 194 |
| Cambridgeshire | 252 |
| Cheshire | 353 |
| Cleveland | 241 |
| Cumbria | 187 |
| Derbyshire | 316 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 603 |
| Dorset | 234 |
| Durham | 225 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 195 |
| Essex | 540 |
| Gloucestershire | 320 |
| Greater Manchester | 1,160 |
| Gwent | 234 |
| Hampshire | 620 |
| Hertfordshire | 318 |
| Humberside | 306 |
| Kent | 527 |
| Lancashire | 594 |
| Leicestershire | 358 |

*The number of police officers in each police force who hold the rank of sergeant as at 30 September 2010 (full-time equivalents)*

| | *Sergeant* |
|---|---|
| Lincolnshire | 185 |
| London, City of | 139 |
| Merseyside | 665 |
| Metropolitan Police | 5,558 |
| Norfolk | 283 |
| Northamptonshire | 225 |
| Northumbria | 603 |
| North Wales | 275 |
| North Yorkshire | 207 |
| Nottinghamshire | 408 |
| South Wales | 516 |
| South Yorkshire | 446 |
| Staffordshire | 362 |
| Suffolk | 206 |
| Surrey | 293 |
| Sussex | 542 |
| Thames Valley | 690 |
| Warwickshire | 130 |
| West Mercia | 398 |
| West Midlands | 1,206 |
| West Yorkshire | 807 |
| Wiltshire | 193 |
| Total | 22,599 |

*Note*:
This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

### Police: Firearms

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in each police force had received up-to-date training in the use of firearms on the most recent date for which figures are available. [46796]

**Nick Herbert** *[holding answer 15 March 2011]:* The number of fully trained police authorised firearms officers by force in England and Wales are published annually. The latest publication for 2008-09 can be found at:

http://tna.europarchive.org/20100419081706/http://www.police.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/Police-firearms-2008-09.html

### Police: Surveillance

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 519-20W, on police: investigations, (1) what procedural and interpretational advice and guidance the Office of Surveillance Commissioners has given regarding the type of organisations that should be subject to covert surveillance by undercover police officers; and if she will make a statement; [47036]

(2) if she will review her Department's codes of practice in relation to the types of organisations which should be subject to undercover police operations; and if she will make a statement; [47037]

(3) when she expects HM Inspectorate of Constabulary to complete its review of operational accountability of undercover work by the National Public Order Intelligence Unit; and if she will make a statement. [47038]

**Nick Herbert:** The Office of Surveillance Commissioners (OSC) is an independent body established by the Police Act 1996 and Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to keep under review the authorisation of certain covert techniques regulated by those Acts. The OSC does not issue general guidance. Any specific guidance it gives to a particular public authority is confidential between it and that public authority.

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary expects to complete its review into the operational accountability of undercover work by the National Public Order Intelligence Unit within the next three to six months. The Home Office will consider what appropriate action to take, including the appropriateness of reviewing codes of practice, following the conclusion of the review.

### Police: Training

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in each police force have current specialist traffic and vehicle training. [46793]

**Nick Herbert** *[holding answer 15 March 2011]:* This information is not collected centrally.

### Police: Bureaucracy

**Bob Stewart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to reduce the amount of duplication in the forms police officers are required to complete when responding to incidents. [45510]

**Nick Herbert:** The Government are looking at reducing duplication in police forms as part of their work to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy in policing. The police service must also play its part in cutting duplication within police forces.

The Government have already scrapped the national reporting requirements for stop and account and reduced the reporting requirements for stop and search, which will save up to 800,000 man hours per year. We will continue to look at reducing duplication as part of our work to reduce bureaucracy in all areas of policing.

### Refugees: Finance

**Ben Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the effect of proposed reductions in refugee integration funding on *(a)* statutory and *(b)* non-statutory services for refugees provided by (i) other Government departments, (ii) non-departmental public bodies and (iii) local authorities. [47328]

**Damian Green:** Individuals granted refugee status have full entitlement to access public funds and services. The impact of the reduction in funding on statutory and non statutory services provided by other Government Departments, non-departmental public bodies and local authorities will therefore be minimal. UK Border Agency officials will be co-chairing a working group with the voluntary sector to identify practical cost neutral solutions to address the integration needs of refugees. The membership will include representatives from other Government Departments.

### UK Border Agency: Sick Leave

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many days on average employees of the UK Border Agency have taken in sick leave in each year since its inception. [46522]

**Damian Green:** The rolling year average number of sick leave days per employee as at March 2010 was 9.16 days.

The rolling year average number of sick leave days per employee as at December 2010 was 7.97 days

Figures taken from the Home Office sick absence time series data for the Home Department.

### Vandalism

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many instances of vandalism were reported in each police force area in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [47792]

**James Brokenshire:** The available information relates to offences of criminal damage recorded by the police and is given in the following table.

*Offences of criminal damage recorded by the police in England and Wales*

*Number of offences*

| | *1997* | *1998-99*[1] | *1999-2000* | *2000/01* | *2001-02* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 20,396 | 20,605 | 20,519 | 22,479 | 26,990 |
| Bedfordshire | 8,025 | 7,893 | 8,048 | 7,892 | 8,191 |
| British Transport police[3] | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cambridgeshire | 9,250 | 11,925 | 12,110 | 13,197 | 13,972 |
| Cheshire | 11,205 | 11,596 | 12,627 | 13,078 | 16,546 |
| Cleveland | 11,274 | 10,681 | 10,812 | 10,684 | 13,446 |
| Cumbria | 8,047 | 8,405 | 8,943 | 8,922 | 10,120 |
| Derbyshire | 13,387 | 14,316 | 15,207 | 14,997 | 17,125 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 15,232 | 17,722 | 18,490 | 18,284 | 19,875 |
| Dorset | 8,245 | 8,303 | 8,408 | 9,419 | 10,766 |
| Durham | 10,518 | 11,122 | 10,654 | 10,375 | 13,018 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 4,497 | 4,497 | 4,417 | 4,571 | 4,949 |
| Essex | 18,845 | 18,834 | 21,766 | 24,673 | 26,990 |
| Gloucestershire | 6,158 | 6,570 | 7,990 | 9,087 | 9,264 |
| Greater Manchester | 68,100 | 67,052 | 75,201 | 77,154 | 84,631 |
| Gwent | 9,947 | 11,690 | 12,253 | 11,221 | 9,934 |
| Hampshire | 26,429 | 25,100 | 28,125 | 28,714 | 31,624 |
| Hertfordshire | 9,831 | 10,177 | 11,560 | 13,839 | 15,302 |
| Humberside | 20,177 | 21,486 | 20,739 | 20,910 | 22,839 |
| Kent | 24,047 | 23,049 | 24,806 | 27,947 | 28,708 |
| Lancashire | 26,767 | 21,360 | 22,776 | 25,445 | 31,925 |
| Leicestershire | 14,034 | 15,143 | 16,889 | 16,664 | 18,903 |
| Lincolnshire | 7,145 | 7,728 | 8,391 | 9,078 | 11,282 |
| London, City Of | 287 | 297 | 409 | 260 | 365 |
| Merseyside | 23,677 | 27,465 | 30,822 | 30,593 | 33,899 |
| Metropolitan | 140,516 | 136,870 | 151,590 | 144,231 | 147,803 |
| Norfolk | 9,782 | 10,393 | 10,978 | 11,481 | 13,065 |
| Northamptonshire | 11,595 | 11,771 | 11,736 | 11,448 | 12,961 |
| Northumbria | 35,314 | 31,634 | 30,436 | 29,775 | 34,027 |
| North Wales | 11,238 | 9,652 | 10,102 | 12,182 | 14,388 |
| North Yorkshire | 8,537 | 8,372 | 8,617 | 9,167 | 11,436 |
| Nottinghamshire | 28,165 | 23,953 | 23,692 | 23,187 | 25,684 |
| South Wales | 29,331 | 30,227 | 28,154 | 25,313 | 27,590 |
| South Yorkshire | 23,568 | 24,198 | 25,305 | 24,173 | 27,513 |
| Staffordshire | 16,940 | 15,668 | 18,442 | 21,655 | 25,385 |
| Suffolk | 7,835 | 7,898 | 9,547 | 10,150 | 12,095 |
| Surrey | 6,557 | 7,576 | 8,602 | 12,318 | 12,964 |
| Sussex | 23,945 | 23,828 | 26,361 | 27,219 | 27,375 |
| Thames Valley | 25,584 | 26,006 | 28,630 | 29,719 | 32,152 |
| Warwickshire | 6,362 | 6,888 | 7,439 | 7,290 | 8,008 |
| West Mercia | 14,965 | 15,346 | 17,410 | 16,817 | 22,739 |
| West Midlands | 49,120 | 50,407 | 61,422 | 57,459 | 61,010 |
| West Yorkshire | 46,446 | 49,239 | 48,106 | 49,568 | 59,262 |
| Wiltshire | 5,722 | 6,644 | 7,151 | 7,452 | 8,374 |
| Total | 877,042 | 879,586 | 945,682 | 960,087 | 1,064,495 |

*Number of offences*

| | *2002-03*[2] | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 26,430 | 29,949 | 31,642 | 30,992 | 33,557 | 30,063 | 26,627 | 23,034 |

*Number of offences*

| | *2002-03*[2] | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bedfordshire | 10,050 | 11,065 | 10,561 | 10,817 | 10,717 | 10,141 | 8,720 | 8,029 |
| British Transport police[3] | 11,353 | 12,948 | 12,772 | 12,660 | 13,444 | 10,461 | 8,974 | 7,606 |
| Cambridgeshire | 16,153 | 16,534 | 16,227 | 14,680 | 15,597 | 14,001 | 12,980 | 11,519 |
| Cheshire | 18,921 | 22,556 | 24,365 | 24,966 | 22,363 | 18,949 | 16,518 | 13,800 |
| Cleveland | 14,591 | 16,958 | 16,941 | 18,604 | 18,591 | 17,545 | 13,746 | 11,183 |
| Cumbria | 10,304 | 11,629 | 12,858 | 13,627 | 12,669 | 11,425 | 8,995 | 7,432 |
| Derbyshire | 17,789 | 18,932 | 17,991 | 19,025 | 20,140 | 17,894 | 16,642 | 14,635 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 26,883 | 30,116 | 31,021 | 31,274 | 32,908 | 28,982 | 25,982 | 21,932 |
| Dorset | 12,229 | 13,428 | 12,297 | 12,545 | 12,460 | 11,907 | 11,331 | 9,972 |
| Durham | 14,067 | 14,244 | 15,176 | 16,322 | 16,422 | 14,674 | 13,027 | 10,856 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 4,920 | 7,032 | 8,186 | 7,939 | 8,003 | 6,657 | 5,932 | 4,953 |
| Essex | 30,337 | 34,253 | 32,406 | 30,564 | 30,010 | 26,379 | 23,554 | 20,589 |
| Gloucestershire | 10,103 | 10,847 | 10,802 | 11,259 | 11,999 | 10,342 | 9,095 | 7,477 |
| Greater Manchester | 76,960 | 81,123 | 73,662 | 75,545 | 77,450 | 65,150 | 60,384 | 48,779 |
| Gwent | 13,126 | 13,681 | 13,494 | 12,875 | 13,659 | 12,524 | 12,191 | 11,428 |
| Hampshire | 34,736 | 43,557 | 42,210 | 42,352 | 45,362 | 38,927 | 35,409 | 28,609 |
| Hertfordshire | 17,988 | 19,887 | 20,762 | 20,986 | 20,713 | 17,374 | 14,999 | 12,824 |
| Humberside | 24,347 | 28,635 | 28,202 | 26,152 | 26,468 | 22,064 | 19,202 | 17,852 |
| Kent | 29,068 | 34,537 | 35,274 | 36,701 | 36,827 | 31,425 | 27,735 | 22,719 |
| Lancashire | 30,733 | 39,447 | 40,863 | 40,110 | 37,804 | 32,284 | 29,639 | 25,139 |
| Leicestershire | 19,210 | 19,480 | 18,955 | 18,302 | 19,418 | 18,642 | 16,997 | 15,019 |
| Lincolnshire | 13,694 | 15,176 | 14,934 | 14,069 | 14,528 | 13,345 | 12,243 | 11,070 |
| London, City Of | 366 | 319 | 311 | 284 | 310 | 234 | 275 | 263 |
| Merseyside | 37,455 | 39,966 | 41,838 | 42,869 | 41,080 | 30,773 | 25,787 | 23,461 |
| Metropolitan | 144,373 | 147,465 | 135,684 | 122,400 | 113,938 | 102,483 | 95,217 | 88,263 |
| Norfolk | 16,030 | 17,462 | 17,470 | 17,577 | 17,258 | 14,790 | 12,647 | 10,440 |
| Northamptonshire | 15,687 | 17,295 | 16,842 | 16,341 | 16,025 | 14,858 | 13,703 | 11,827 |
| Northumbria | 42,222 | 42,523 | 41,248 | 36,911 | 36,087 | 29,758 | 27,178 | 22,551 |
| North Wales | 17,079 | 17,036 | 15,107 | 14,436 | 14,841 | 12,938 | 11,808 | 10,223 |
| North Yorkshire | 13,168 | 14,732 | 13,573 | 12,723 | 12,509 | 11,023 | 10,764 | 8,707 |
| Nottinghamshire | 23,980 | 26,308 | 29,073 | 30,728 | 30,278 | 26,735 | 24,234 | 19,993 |
| South Wales | 30,935 | 28,519 | 27,558 | 28,794 | 28,550 | 27,671 | 26,762 | 22,719 |
| South Yorkshire | 29,861 | 30,933 | 35,384 | 40,293 | 39,507 | 35,467 | 30,408 | 24,850 |
| Staffordshire | 23,271 | 24,447 | 23,262 | 24,328 | 24,944 | 20,509 | 19,015 | 16,610 |
| Suffolk | 11,497 | 12,817 | 12,781 | 13,067 | 13,084 | 12,207 | 11,308 | 10,419 |
| Surrey | 13,669 | 16,571 | 17,271 | 16,968 | 17,501 | 15,961 | 14,650 | 13,047 |
| Sussex | 25,548 | 28,792 | 30,830 | 29,288 | 30,060 | 26,659 | 23,601 | 20,964 |
| Thames Valley | 33,693 | 37,320 | 37,338 | 37,356 | 40,273 | 35,931 | 34,104 | 30,300 |
| Warwickshire | 8,514 | 9,318 | 9,728 | 10,054 | 10,267 | 9,234 | 8,006 | 6,458 |
| West Mercia | 21,258 | 23,615 | 21,962 | 20,563 | 20,675 | 18,672 | 17,060 | 14,568 |
| West Midlands | 57,319 | 59,150 | 55,996 | 56,729 | 56,134 | 46,670 | 41,977 | 37,486 |
| West Yorkshire | 61,447 | 68,476 | 63,666 | 60,600 | 59,041 | 51,526 | 46,760 | 38,692 |
| Wiltshire | 9,246 | 9,446 | 9,020 | 9,674 | 11,569 | 10,929 | 10,179 | 8,423 |
| Total | 1,120,610 | 1,218,524 | 1,197,543 | 1,184,349 | 1,185,040 | 1,036,183 | 936,365 | 806,720 |

[1] The coverage was expanded and counting rules changed in 1998-99. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.
[2] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in 2002-03. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.
[3] Includes the British Transport police from 2002-03.

## Vetting

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish *(a)* the minutes of meetings her Department has had with and *(b)* written submissions her Department has received from (i) the NSPCC, (ii) Barnardos, (iii) Sir Roger Singleton and (iv) the Children's Commissioner during preparation of the Protection of Freedoms Bill. [46819]

**Lynne Featherstone:** A number of consultation meetings with interested parties have taken place during the Vetting and Barring Scheme and criminal records reviews and other aspects of the Protection of Freedoms Bill. We would not normally publish material submitted by third parties without their express consent to do so.

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many criminal records checks have been received and processed by her Department in each year since 2005. [47371]

**Lynne Featherstone:** The figures for the number of criminal records checks that have been received and processed by the Criminal Records Bureau in each year since 2005 can be found in the following table:

| | *Applications received* | *Certificates despatched* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 2,736,774 | 2,655,928 |
| 2006 | 3,183,035 | 3,143,109 |
| 2007 | 3,382,807 | 3,353,101 |
| 2008 | 3,810,670 | 3,701,295 |

| | Applications received | Certificates despatched |
|---|---|---|
| 2009 | 4,269,971 | 4,198,256 |
| 2010 | 4,219,395 | 4,307,690 |

The figures for despatched volumes may include carry-over from previous years, e.g. applications received in December 2009 may have been despatched in January 2010.

## INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

### Budget Limits

**Yasmin Qureshi:** To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, on what date the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority expects to publish budget limits for 2011-12. [46885]

**Mr Charles Walker:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

*Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated March 2011:*

As acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking the date the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority expects to publish budget limits for 2011-12.

IPSA will outline MPs' budget limits for 2011-12 when it publishes the revised MPs' Expenses Scheme on 25 March 2011.

## JUSTICE

### Contact Orders

**Mr Raab:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many contact orders under section 8 of the Children Act 1989 issued to fathers in respect of their children were issued in response to the breach of an existing contact order in each year since 2000; [47358]

(2) how many contact orders under section 8 of the Children Act 1989 were issued to fathers in respect of their children in each year since 2000; [47359]

(3) how many *(a)* parents and *(b)* fathers applied to court in respect of (i) one breach and (ii) three or more breaches of a contact order issued under section 8 of the Children Act 1989 in each year since 2000; [47360]

(4) how many contact orders under section 8 of the Children Act 1989 were issued in response to the breach of an existing contact order in each year since 2000. [47361]

**Mr Djanogly:** Information about contact applications in respect of breaches of a contact order, contact orders issued in response to the breach of an existing contact order, or about to which party contact orders are issued is not held centrally. This information can be obtained only through the inspection of individual files at disproportionate cost.

However, information on the total number of applications for a contact order made by fathers in the county courts and High Court is available centrally, and figures for 2005 to 2009 are provided in the following table.

*Applications for Section 8 Contact Orders in Children Act (Private Law) cases in the county courts and High Court of England and Wales, by applicant relationship to child, 2005-09*

| *Applicant relationship to child* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Father | 25,339 | 24,967 | 24,079 | 25,369 | 28,777 |
| Other | 7,997 | 8,210 | 8,187 | 8,761 | 9,852 |
| Unknown | 264 | 295 | 278 | 278 | 375 |
| Total | 33,600 | 33,472 | 32,544 | 34,408 | 39,004 |

*Notes:*

1. Data are taken from HM Court Service's FamilyMan system.
2. The figures reflect the number of applications made, counted by child. This means that where an application was made for contact with two children the case will be counted twice.
3. In the applicant relationship to child categories "father" may be an adoptive parent or a natural parent, and "other" includes any relationship (e.g. mother, aunt or uncle) and "unknown" reflects cases where no relationship was specified or where the relationship was unclear because there was more than one relationship specified for the case.
4. The figures exclude applications made in Family Proceedings Courts (FPCs). This is because, during the period considered, not all FPCs were using FamilyMan and information on applicant relationships to children was not available for all FPCs. In 2009 FPCs represented about 26% of private law contact order applications.
5. The figures also exclude section 8 contact order applications made in public law (child protection) cases.
6. The overall totals for each year may differ slightly from previously published figures as FamilyMan is a live system and the data used to produce these figures was a more recent extract than that used to produce the earlier published figures. This means that the figures will take into account changes made to data held on FamilyMan since previously published statistics was extracted.

Provisional statistics for private law applications in 2010 are due to be published in the October to December edition of the report Court Statistics Quarterly, which will be published on 31 March and available from the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/courtstatisticsquarterly.htm

### Departmental Assets

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether receipts from the sale of assets owned by regional development agencies are reflected in the spending plans of his Department for *(a)* 2012-13 and *(b)* 2013-14. [47407]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Ministry of Justice does not fund the regional development agencies and is not financially linked with them, so receipts from any sale of regional development agency assets would not be included in the MoJ's future spending plans.

More information about the funding of the regional development agencies can be found on their website at:

http://www.englandsrdas.com/funding-and-accountability

### Departmental Public Appointments

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which public bodies sponsored by his Department *(a)* have been and *(b)* are to be closed, merged or reorganised following his appointment; and how many (i) women and (ii) men who are public appointees at each body will no longer hold such an appointment in consequence. [47101]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The coalition Government are committed to increasing the accountability of public bodies, and this involves reducing their number and their cost to the taxpayer. The proposals for the majority of bodies across all Departments were announced and published on 14 October 2010. An updated list reflecting changes since October 2010 has been published on the Cabinet Office website this month.

Summary information on public appointments is published annually by the Cabinet Office. This includes data on gender. Copies of the most recent report can be downloaded from:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/ndpb

In relation to those bodies sponsored by the Ministry of Justice which are subject to possible closure, merger or reorganisation, the following table gives details of the proposed reforms and the gender split for any public appointees involved:

| *Arm's length body* | *Proposed reforms* | *Male public appointees* | *Female public appointees* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Advisory Committees of Justices of the Peace (x101) | Merge: Merge and reduce number to 48 on grounds of performing a function which requires impartiality | [1]— | [1]— |
| Administrative Justice and Tribunals Council | No longer an NDPB: Abolish body and function | 13 | 8 |
| Chief Coroner of England and Wales/ Office of the Chief Coroner (1 body) | No longer a statutory body: Abolish body and function. Certain functions to be transferred, either to the Lord Chancellor or the Senior Judiciary | 0 | 0 |
| Courts Boards (x19) | No longer an NDPB: Abolish body and function | 93 | 45 |
| Crown Court Rule Committee | No longer an NDPB: Abolish body and transfer functions to Lord Chief Justice in consultation with other rule committees | 1 | 0 |
| Crown Prosecution Service/Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office[2] | Merge: Public Bodies Bill will legislatively complete the reform which was effected in Jan 2010 | 0 | 0 |
| HM Inspectorate of Court Administration | No longer a statutory body: Abolish body and transfer essential functions to the appropriate inspectorate, as previously announced | 0 | 0 |
| Legal Services Commission | No longer an NDPB: Abolish as NDPB, change to executive agency, as previously announced | 5 | 1 |
| Legal Services Ombudsman | No longer a statutory body: Abolish both body and function, decision already taken to abolish by 2011 | 0 | 0 |
| Magistrates Courts Rule Committee | No longer a statutory body: Abolish body, will be discontinued and function will transfer to other rule committee | 4 | 0 |
| Public Guardian Board | No longer a statutory body: Abolish body and function | 3 | 4 |
| Victims' Advisory Panel | No longer an NDPB: Abolish body and function | 0 | 0 |
| Youth Justice Board of England and Wales | No longer an NDPB: Abolish as part of wider criminal justice reforms | 6 | 4 |

[1] Figures not available at present.

[2] The CPS/RCPO are not sponsored by the Ministry of Justice, but the Department has responsibility for policy.

## Electronic Tagging

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimate he has made of the average cost to his Department of administering the electronic tagging of an individual for *(a)* 90 and *(b)* 120 days in the latest period for which figures are available; [47125]

(2) what reports he has received of instances where procedures to be followed in the event of a breach of electronic tag conditions have not been adhered to in the last three years; [47126]

(3) whether any contractual penalties have been imposed on companies who hold electronic tagging contracts in England and Wales. [47127]

**Mr Blunt:** The average cost to the Ministry of Justice for electronic monitoring a person for 90 and 120 days is shown in the following table. The costs differ for adults and juveniles.

*Average national cost (inc VAT) – 2010-11*

|  | *Adults* | £<br>*Juveniles* |
|---|---|---|
| 90 day | 1,063 | 1,503 |
| 120 day | 1,368 | 1,935 |

The Department does not routinely collect the information requested. Details on all breaches of electronic monitoring curfews are held by the electronic monitoring suppliers G4S and Serco. Obtaining this information would require the suppliers to check all breach cases over the last three years to identify instances where breach proceedings were not adhered to; this could be met only at a disproportionate cost.

However, all the electronic monitoring providers do have a specific service level in place about the timely reporting of electronic monitoring breaches to court, in the year 2009-10 both contractors reported 100% compliance with this service level.

Contractual penalties have been imposed on the electronic monitoring suppliers, Serco and G4S for failure to meet specific service level agreements. The suppliers repay credits to the Ministry of Justice for these failures. Details of the credits that the Department has received for the last four financial years are as follows:

|  | *Total credits (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 168,444.07 |
| 2008-09 | 66,787.04 |
| 2009-10 | 23,638.27 |
| 2010-11 | 14,617.55 |
| Overall total | 273,486.3 |

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were sentenced to supervision by the courts in England and Wales with a condition of being electronically tagged in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [47153]

**Mr Blunt:** The number of people who received a community order with a requirement for an electronic monitoring curfew was *(a)* 55,189 in 2009 and *(b)* 62,233 in 2010.

The data provided are from the Electronic monitoring service suppliers, G4S and Serco. They show the number of electronic monitoring orders received by the suppliers and not individuals.

### Family Courts

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what steps he has taken to improve the working of family courts; [46806]

(2) what steps he has taken to minimise any adverse effect on a child arising from participation in court proceedings. [46807]

**Mr Djanogly:** A Family Justice Review is currently under way looking at the workings of the family justice system with a view to implementing significant reform. The review panel, comprising experts from across the field of family justice, will make recommendations for reform in two core areas: the promotion of informed settlement and agreement; and management of the family justice system overall. Recommendations will focus on ensuring that the interests of the child are paramount in any decision affecting them, unnecessary delay is avoided and conflict between individuals is minimised as far as possible. An interim report is expected shortly and a final report is due in the autumn.

Pending the outcome of the review, in public law proceedings an interim "system-wide approach" has been adopted with the aim of reducing unnecessary delay. The approach comprises efforts focussed around local solutions and initiatives, and is being taken forward by a network of newly established "local performance improvement groups". A National Performance Partnership has also been established to collate best practice and take a strategic approach to improving performance and reducing delay. Ministry of Justice and Department for Education officials are working closely with system agencies (Her Majesty's Courts Service, CAFCASS, Legal Services Commission and local authorities) as well as with the President of the Family Division to identify and share best practice to reduce delay and improve performance in public law proceedings. To support these efforts, Her Majesty's Court Service allocated an additional 4,000 county court sitting days over the course of 2010-11 to create extra capacity in the system.

In relation to private law disputes, the President of the Family Division issued a revised Practice Direction in April 2010 setting out the principles to be followed. A key feature is the requirement to list a first hearing within four weeks, and no later than six weeks, from the issue of proceedings. At the first hearing, the court will identify the issues and make decisions about the timetabling and next stages in the case. These decisions are informed by a short report from CAFCASS setting out the result of initial safeguarding checks with the local authority and police to ensure that any decisions made at the first hearing are safe for the child and parties.

### HM Inspectorate of Prisons: Political Activities

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the role of Chief Inspector of Prisons is politically restricted under civil service guidelines. [46908]

**Mr Blunt:** The civil service guidelines do not apply to Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons (HMCI Prisons), since the appointment is not within the civil service. However, it is the policy of the Ministry of Justice to include in HMCI Prisons' terms of appointment a provision that restricts the political activities of the office holder. That is to say, HMCI Prisons must not engage in national political activities such as adoption as a candidate, holding office in a party political organisation, or canvassing on behalf of a parliamentary candidate or political party. Permission may be sought to take part in local political activities or to engage in matters of local political controversy. Under schedule 1 of the House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975, the serving Chief Inspector is not permitted to stand as a Member of Parliament; under the Scottish Parliament (Disqualification) Order 2010 the Chief Inspector is also prohibited from standing as a member of the Scottish Parliament.

### Human Rights

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on which occasions the UK Supreme Court has declared an incompatibility between domestic legislation and the European Convention on Human Rights under section 4 of the Human Rights Act 1998 since the Court's inception; and what the Government's response was in each such case. [46900]

**Mr Djanogly:** Since the Supreme Court began operating in October 2009, it has declared one piece of domestic legislation incompatible with the European convention on human rights (ECHR) in accordance with section 4 of the Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA).

On this occasion, the Supreme Court upheld a declaration of incompatibility issued by the Court of Appeal in relation to section 82 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, pursuant to the R (on the application of (1)F (2) Angus Aubrey Thompson) *v.* Secretary of State for the Home Department case. On 16 February 2011, the Home Secretary made an oral statement in the House of Commons announcing that the Government would shortly bring forward proposals to implement the Supreme Court's ruling in this case.

The courts listed under section 4(5) of the HRA other than the Supreme Court have also exercised the power to grant a declaration of incompatibility since the HRA came into force on 2 October 2000.

### Offenders: Berkshire

**Alok Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people arrested and charged for drug-related offences in *(a)* Reading West constituency, *(b)* Reading and *(c)* Berkshire were prosecuted in each of the last five years; and how many such cases resulted in (i) a custodial sentence, (ii) a non-custodial penalty, (iii) the case being dropped due to a lack of evidence and (iv) the defendant being cleared of all charges; [46599]

(2) how many people arrested and charged for drink- and drug-related driving offences in *(a)* Reading West constituency, *(b)* Reading and *(c)* Berkshire were prosecuted in each of the last five years; and how many of those cases resulted in (i) a custodial sentence, (ii) a non-custodial penalty, (iii) the case being dropped due to a lack of evidence and (iv) the defendant being cleared of all charges; [46627]

(3) how many people arrested and charged for firearm-related offences in *(a)* Reading West constituency, *(b)* Reading and *(c)* Berkshire were prosecuted in each of the last five years; how many of those cases resulted in (i) a custodial sentence, (ii) a non-custodial penalty, (iii) the case being dropped due to a lack of evidence and (iv) the defendant being cleared of all charges; [46628]

(4) how many people were prosecuted for burglary in *(a)* Reading West constituency, *(b)* Reading and *(c)* Berkshire in each of the last five years; and how many cases resulted in (i) a custodial sentence, (ii) a non-custodial penalty, (iii) the case being dropped because of a lack of evidence and (iv) the defendant being cleared of all charges; [46635]

(5) how many people were prosecuted for possession of a knife in *(a)* Reading West constituency, *(b)* Reading and *(c)* Berkshire in each of the last five years; and how many cases resulted in (i) a custodial sentence, (ii) a non-custodial penalty, (iii) the case being dropped because of a lack of evidence and (iv) the defendant being cleared of all charges; [46636]

**Mr Blunt:** From information held by the Ministry of Justice, the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for drugs, drink and drug driving, firearms, burglary or knife possession offences, and the sentence breakdown in Thames Valley police force area, 2005-09 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Information available centrally does not allow a breakdown below police force area or local justice area in which the cases were heard. Therefore information for Thames Valley police force area has been provided in lieu.

Court proceedings data for 2010 will be available in the spring of 2011.

Charging information is not held by the Ministry of Justice.

The Home Office are responsible for information relating to arrests. The latest published information on arrests can be found in chapter 1 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin, "Police Powers and Procedures 2008-09". Table 1.01 contains data on arrests for drug offences in Thames Valley police force area.

A link to the bulletin as well as previous bulletins can also be found as follows:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/police-powers.html

Arrests data reported to the Home Office are for the main offence groups only e.g. violence against the person, sexual offences, etc. It is therefore not possible to provide the specific information requested.

*Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for selected offences and sentence breakdown in Thames Valley police force area, 2005-09*[1, 2]

| *Offence/Outcome* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Drugs:* | | | | | |
| Proceeded against[3] | 1,759 | 1,962 | 1,789 | 2,049 | 2,064 |
| Terminated early[4] | 142 | 133 | 97 | 105 | 101 |
| Acquitted[5] | 46 | 56 | 44 | 58 | 50 |
| Found guilty | 1,573 | 1.747 | 1,643 | 1,924 | 1,916 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,571 | 1,747 | 1,636 | 1,922 | 1,900 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 200 | 211 | 240 | 268 | 195 |
| Other sentences[7] | 1,371 | 1,536 | 1,396 | 1.654 | 1,705 |
| | | | | | |
| *Drink and drugs related motoring:* | | | | | |
| Proceeded against[3] | 3,412 | 3,379 | 3,299 | 2,875 | 2,425 |
| Terminated early[4] | 170 | 196 | 174 | 91 | 79 |
| Acquitted[5] | 33 | 23 | 25 | 23 | 22 |
| Found guilty | 3,211 | 3,161 | 3,102 | 2,763 | 2,323 |
| Sentenced[6] | 3,211 | 3,163 | 3,101 | 2,762 | 2,326 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 96 | 85 | 70 | 91 | 58 |
| Other sentences[7] | 3,115 | 3,078 | 3,031 | 2.671 | 2,268 |
| | | | | | |
| *Firearms:* | | | | | |
| Proceeded against[3] | 72 | 79 | 61 | 64 | 80 |
| Terminated early[4] | 9 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 3 |
| Acquitted[5] | 9 | 13 | 3 | 4 | 17 |
| Found guilty | 47 | 55 | 48 | 45 | 46 |
| Sentenced[6] | 49 | 55 | 46 | 44 | 47 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 14 | 18 | 16 | 14 | 11 |
| Other sentences[7] | 35 | 37 | 30 | 30 | 36 |

*Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for selected offences and sentence breakdown in Thames Valley police force area, 2005-09*[1, 2]

| *Offence/Outcome* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Burglary:* | | | | | |
| Proceeded against[3] | 912 | 907 | 872 | 958 | 870 |
| Terminated early[4] | 144 | 133 | 85 | 112 | 109 |
| Acquitted[5] | 48 | 61 | 65 | 68 | 62 |
| Found guilty | 685 | 649 | 674 | 681 | 607 |
| Sentenced[6] | 666 | 648 | 663 | 673 | 612 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 252 | 295 | 278 | 283 | 259 |
| Other sentences[7] | 414 | 353 | 385 | 390 | 353 |
| | | | | | |
| *Possession of a knife:* | | | | | |
| Proceeded against[3] | 192 | 227 | 165 | 167 | 289 |
| Terminated early[4] | 42 | 41 | 19 | 15 | 22 |
| Acquitted[5] | 10 | 13 | 14 | 16 | 18 |
| Found guilty | 145 | 178 | 139 | 138 | 238 |
| Sentenced[6] | 147 | 179 | 137 | 145 | 243 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 26 | 32 | 32 | 24 | 55 |
| Other sentences[7] | 121 | 147 | 105 | 121 | 188 |

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The total of the 'Terminated early', 'Acquitted' and 'Found guilty' columns may exceed the number proceeded against where defendants are found guilty in the year following that in which proceedings occurred.

[4] Includes proceedings which are discontinued or withdrawn.

[5] Includes proceedings which are discharged or dismissed.

[6] The sentenced column may exceed those found guilty as it may be the case that a defendant found guilty, and committed for sentence at the Crown court, may be sentenced in the following year.

[7] Includes: Absolute/conditional discharge, Fine, Community Sentence, Fully Suspended Sentence, and Otherwise dealt with.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice.

## Playgrounds: Acklington

**Sir Alan Beith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the estates directorate of his Department will notify Acklington Parish Council of its conclusions on the transfer of land at Acklington for a children's play area; and when he plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for Berwick-upon-Tweed of 10 January 2011 on this matter. [47301]

**Mr Djanogly:** A copy of the reply from the Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend, the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), to the right hon. Gentleman's letter of 10 January was emailed to his office on 3 March. A further copy of this reply was sent to his office on 15 March.

The Ministry of Justice is unable to process applications for the transfer of land until its policy on disposal of surplus property is finalised. It is expected that this will be done by the end of July and that transfer of land at Acklington to the Parish Council for recreational use could proceed this summer.

## Police: Prison Accommodation

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners are being held in police cells; at what cost; and how many were so held in each police force area in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [46945]

**Mr Blunt:** Police cells have not been used since 22 September 2008 and no police cells have been on stand by since the end of October 2008.

The following table details usage by police force area between October 2006 and 31 October 2008 and gives the aggregated total of the number of prisoner nights in which a police cell was used.

*Aggregated total number of prisoner nights in which a police cell was used by police force area from October 2006 to 22 September 2008*

| | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 0 | 122 | 35 | 157 |
| Bedfordshire | 0 | 414 | 82 | 496 |
| Cambridgeshire | 212 | 1,262 | 414 | 1,888 |
| Cheshire | 103 | 4,437 | 1,558 | 6,098 |
| Cleveland | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Cumbria | 0 | 351 | 89 | 440 |
| Derbyshire | 113 | 454 | 341 | 908 |

*Aggregated total number of prisoner nights in which a police cell was used by police force area from October 2006 to 22 September 2008*

| | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Devon and Cornwall | 38 | 1,995 | 432 | 2,465 |
| Dorset | 71 | 380 | 109 | 560 |
| Durham | 42 | 1,226 | 377 | 1,645 |
| Dyfed Powys | 1 | 682 | 0 | 683 |
| Essex | 1,009 | 4,387 | 645 | 6,041 |
| Gloucestershire | 0 | 17 | 1 | 18 |
| GMP | 15 | 3,086 | 611 | 3,712 |
| Gwent | 0 | 962 | 0 | 962 |
| Hampshire | 65 | 1,555 | 475 | 2,095 |
| Hertfordshire | 40 | 1,216 | 395 | 1,651 |
| Humberside | 0 | 81 | 30 | 111 |
| Kent | 335 | 3,654 | 948 | 4,937 |
| Lancashire | 0 | 1,802 | 263 | 2,065 |
| Leicestershire | 0 | 2,970 | 723 | 3,693 |
| Lincolnshire | 168 | 1,569 | 2 | 1,739 |
| Merseyside | 196 | 170 | 43 | 409 |
| Met | 333 | 10,740 | 4,423 | 15,496 |
| Norfolk | 0 | 20 | 12 | 32 |
| North Wales | 14 | 1,785 | 453 | 2,252 |
| North Yorkshire | 0 | 39 | 20 | 59 |
| Northamptonshire | 219 | 1,232 | 43 | 1,494 |
| Northumbria | 0 | 1,242 | 0 | 1,242 |
| Nottinghamshire | 0 | 188 | 34 | 222 |
| South Wales | 81 | 1,401 | 715 | 2,197 |
| South Yorkshire | 0 | 1,015 | 194 | 1,209 |
| Staffordshire | 0 | 2 | 58 | 60 |
| Suffolk | 83 | 1,171 | 369 | 1,623 |
| Surrey | 0 | 107 | 9 | 116 |
| Sussex | 338 | 262 | 223 | 823 |
| TVP | 433 | 2,727 | 688 | 3,848 |
| Warwickshire | 93 | 1,191 | 893 | 2,177 |
| West Mercia | 0 | 63 | 1 | 64 |
| West Midlands | 570 | 6,959 | 939 | 8,468 |
| West Yorkshire | 45 | 3,672 | 948 | 4,665 |
| Wiltshire | 0 | 91 | 6 | 97 |
| Totals | 4,617 | 66,703 | 17,601 | 88,921 |

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was allocated to the daily cost of food for a prisoner in *(a)* a prison cell and *(b)* a police station cell in each of the last five years. [46946]

**Mr Blunt:** The information is as follows:

*For prisoners in prison cells:*

Responsibility for determining prison establishment food budgets lies with the governing Governor who will set aside a realistic sum that will meet the dietary needs of the population of the establishment. Menu requirements vary between establishments and are based on the prisoner population, local regimes and seasonal availability.

Prisons provide breakfast, lunch and dinner together with all condiments and beverages. The average daily food expenditure (ADFE) per prisoner for each of the last five years is as follows.

| *Year ending 31 March:* | *Estimated average daily food expenditure per prisoner (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2010 | 2.20 |
| 2009 | 2.31 |
| 2008 | 2.12 |
| 2007 | 1.97 |
| 2006 | 1.93 |

Costs shown in the table exclude prisons operated and managed by the contracted sector.

The ADFE per prisoner has been calculated using available management information from the NOMS finance systems and assumes that all transactions have been allocated and recorded against the correct accounting codes.

*For prisoners in police station cells:*

Police cells have not been used since 22 September 2008 and no police cells have been on stand by since the end of October 2008.

However Operation Safeguard was in use between mid-October 2006 and 31 October 2008. Throughout this period NOMS was invoiced by police forces in arrears. Expenditure on meals provided for prisoners held in police cells is not readily available from invoices submitted. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, the agreement between NOMS and ACPO at this time placed an upper limit of £12 expenditure on meals for each prisoner over a 24 hour period.

Under the current agreement between NOMS and ACPO governing Operation Safeguard an all-inclusive rate is charged which includes the cost of meals and other ancillary items. This agreement was finalised in May 2009.

## Police: Video Recordings

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the merits of using videolink equipment installed in prisons to record interviews between police officers and witnesses in prison. [46947]

**Mr Blunt:** The Ministry of Justice Video Services do not currently have a recording facility available on any video link equipment. There are no plans at present to upgrade the service but we will consider this issue as part of the Department's wider plans to roll out video services.

## Prison Accommodation

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders held in a cell designed for one inmate shared it with *(a)* one other inmate and *(b)* two other inmates in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [46828]

**Mr Blunt:** The number of offenders held in a cell designed for one inmate who shared with one other inmate in the 12 months from April 2009 to March 2010 is set out in the following table in the column headed "doubling".

Trebling refers to cells designed for two which are occupied by three. Figures for trebling are available for each of the 12 months from April 2009 to March 2010 and are shown in the following table.

| | *Doubling* | *Trebling* |
|---|---|---|
| *2009* | | |
| April | 18,702 | 993 |
| May | 18,760 | 1,076 |
| June | 18,914 | 1,154 |
| July | 19,275 | 1,076 |
| August | 19,725 | 1,198 |
| September | 19,082 | 1,147 |
| October | 19,404 | 1,131 |
| November | 19,470 | 1,041 |
| December | 18,602 | 952 |
| *2010* | | |
| January | 18,718 | 861 |
| February | 18,872 | 894 |
| March | 19,466 | 871 |
| Total | 228,990 | 12,394 |

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Occupancy levels at individual prisons will vary according to the amount of capacity available overall, the number of prisoners and the way in which the prison population is managed.

We will continue to keep capacity requirements under review against current headroom in the estate, expected prison population levels and the impact of wider developments such as the Government's Green Paper "Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders".

## Prison Service: Training

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget for staff training in each prison was in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [46912]

**Mr Blunt:** The table details the budgets allocated on the National Offender Management Service' (NOMS) central accounting system for staff training in each prison for financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11. The training budgets cover externally provided staff training courses and further education courses, and also include the purchase of associated training course materials and training equipment.

The budgets do not include training delivered to staff internally within NOMS, or that training that may occur within the normal working environment in the form of on the job learning and development. This information is not held centrally on the NOMS accounting system.

£

| *Prison* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
|---|---|---|
| Acklington | 15,500 | 15,500 |
| Ashwell | 13,475 | 14,800 |
| Askham Grange | 5,618 | 5,700 |
| Aylesbury | 13,400 | 6,000 |
| Bedford | 12,000 | 12,000 |
| Belmarsh | 68,387 | 55,784 |
| Birmingham | 23,000 | 34,000 |
| Blantyre House | 3,000 | 600 |
| Blundeston | 14,440 | 10,413 |
| Brinsford | 18,050 | 51,000 |
| Bristol | 10,333 | 12,000 |
| Brixton | 8,000 | 9,000 |
| Buckley Hall | 20,000 | 10,700 |
| Bullingdon | 7,000 | 13,000 |
| Bullwood Hall | 9,000 | 8,600 |
| Canterbury | 11,000 | 8,000 |
| Cardiff | 15,000 | 10,000 |
| Castington | 18,000 | 0 |
| Channings Wood | 21,875 | 19,900 |
| Chelmsford | 21,000 | 33,000 |
| Coldingley | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| Cookham Wood | 9,000 | 8,000 |
| Dartmoor | 4,000 | 10,000 |
| Deerbolt | 12,000 | 12,000 |
| Dorchester | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Dover | 14,100 | 14,650 |
| Downview | 60,250 | 15,800 |
| Drake Hall | 12,866 | 9,500 |
| Durham | 23,000 | 33,000 |
| East Sutton Park | 4,000 | 600 |
| Eastwood Park | 15,830 | 8,273 |
| Erlestoke | 11,000 | 19,914 |
| Everthorpe | 22,400 | 24,615 |
| Exeter | 12,000 | 12,000 |
| Featherstone | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| Feltham | 22,000 | 26,000 |
| Ford | 7,500 | 7,500 |
| Foston Hall | 21,010 | 22,592 |
| Frankland | 167,250 | 171,346 |
| Full Sutton | 73,400 | 68,300 |

| Prison | 2009-10 | £ 2010-11 |
|---|---|---|
| Garth | 58,914 | 32,074 |
| Gartree | 34,574 | 20,774 |
| Glen Parva | 25,900 | 12,500 |
| Gloucester | 11,600 | 8,600 |
| Grendon | 15,900 | 10,500 |
| Guys Marsh | 6,500 | 12,500 |
| Haslar | 4,400 | 5,150 |
| Haverigg | 9,000 | 5,000 |
| Highdown | 18,000 | 9,000 |
| Edmunds Hill | 18,000 | 6,000 |
| Highpoint | 26,000 | 24,700 |
| Hindley | 25,500 | 25,500 |
| Hollesley Bay | 3,500 | 5,500 |
| Holloway | 20,000 | 30,000 |
| Holme House | 33,800 | 39,700 |
| Hull | 32,000 | 7,000 |
| Huntercombe | 18,565 | 11,403 |
| Kingston | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Kirkham | 36,000 | 9,000 |
| Kirklevington Grange | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Lancaster Castle | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| Lancaster Farms | 36,000 | 15,600 |
| Latchmere House | 4,000 | 3,800 |
| Leeds | 19,097 | 15,247 |
| Leicester | 8,000 | 23,520 |
| Lewes | 14,400 | 19,630 |
| Leyhill | 19,000 | 19,500 |
| Lincoln | 17,700 | 16,800 |
| Lindholme | 52,000 | 15,000 |
| Littlehey | 13,017 | 45,269 |
| Liverpool | 24,163 | 12,200 |
| Long Lartin | 70,650 | 70,695 |
| Low Newton | 17,000 | 29,356 |
| Maidstone | 10,000 | 15,000 |
| Manchester | 106,147 | 110,147 |
| Moorland | 19,000 | 19,000 |
| Morton Hall | 20,150 | 10,000 |
| Mount (The) | 20,000 | 6,000 |
| New Hall | 36,474 | 32,874 |
| North Sea Camp | 6,000 | 11,400 |
| Northallerton | 6,000 | 7,300 |
| Norwich | 14,735 | 15,260 |
| Nottingham | 15,665 | 21,200 |
| Onley | 32,500 | 39,500 |
| Pentonville | 11,128 | 12,000 |
| Portland | 21,300 | 2130 |
| Preston | 43,900 | 27,000 |
| Ranby | 26,000 | 17,000 |
| Reading | 7,500 | 7,500 |
| Risley | 30,000 | 20,000 |
| Rochester | 33,825 | 29,750 |
| Send | 8,000 | 18,000 |
| Shepton Mallet | 7,000 | 4,500 |
| Shrewsbury | 10,000 | 10,380 |
| Stafford | 10,000 | 25,000 |
| Stocken | 27,000 | 35,500 |
| Stoke Heath | 31,500 | 22,500 |
| Styal | 60,500 | 11,750 |
| Sudbury | 6,000 | 10,400 |
| Swansea | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Swinfen Hall | 23,000 | 18,000 |
| Thorn Cross | 11,000 | 9,000 |
| Usk | 2,986 | 6,000 |
| Verne (The) | 10,079 | 12,000 |
| Wakefield | 56,000 | 75,000 |
| Wandsworth | 97,080 | 42,000 |
| Warren Hill | 6,762 | 10,000 |
| Wayland | 41,000 | 29,000 |
| Wealstun | 8,000 | 8,000 |
| Wellingborough | 6,000 | 18,000 |
| Werrington | 16,100 | 17,000 |
| Wetherby | 96,733 | 64,100 |
| Whatton | 55,950 | 43,000 |
| Whitemoor | 204,282 | 168,716 |
| Winchester | 10,200 | 13,200 |
| Woodhill | 43,999 | 35,000 |
| Wormwood Scrubs | 25,000 | 15,000 |
| Wymott | 34,000 | 23,500 |
| Springhill | 5,100 | 4,500 |
| Isle of Sheppey Cluster | 23,842 | 44,259 |
| Kennet | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| Hewell | 14,100 | 21,000 |
| Bure | 19,500 | 30,000 |
| Isle of Wight Cluster | 44,000 | 39,000 |
| Isis | 48,000 | 52,000 |
| Total | 3,102,901 | 2,780,140 |

## Prisoners' Release

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were subject to home detention curfew in England and Wales on the latest date for which figures are available. [47154]

**Mr Blunt:** On 11 March 2011 there were 2,699 prisoners under Home Detention Curfew supervision. This information is published weekly on the HMPS website:

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/resourcecentre/publicationsdocuments/index.asp?cat=85

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

## Prisoners: Finance

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has given to prisoner support groups in each year since its inception. [46835]

**Mr Blunt:** Financial information for grants and contracts paid to voluntary and community sector providers since the Department's inception is not collated centrally. Individual prisons and Probation Trusts have responsibility for contracting directly with the voluntary and community sector providers, and the National Offenders Management Service has only recently commenced putting in processes to collect data at a national level.

### Prisons: EU Action

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether the Government were consulted in advance of the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of Recommendation (87)3 on European prison rules; whether the European prison rules have effect in UK domestic law; and if he will make a statement; [46848]

(2) whether the UK was consulted in advance of the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of Recommendation (2003)23 on the management by prison administrations of life sentence and other long-term prisoners; whether the Recommendation has effect in UK domestic law; and if he will make a statement. [46849]

**Mr Blunt:** The Committee of Ministers is composed of representatives of Council of Europe member states, and Her Majesty's Government regularly contributes to discussions about prison rules and standards within the Council of Europe. The European prison rules are not legally binding on member states. However, our domestic rules, standards and policies are generally consistent with the principles of the European rules.

### Prisons: Mobile Phones

**Karl Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers received a *(a)* caution and *(b)* reprimand for providing prisoners with mobile telephones in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008, *(c)* 2009 and *(d)* 2010. [47085]

**Mr Blunt:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only by contacting individual prison establishments and by reviewing individual employee personal files at a disproportionate cost.

### Prosecutions

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions have been brought by *(a)* the Crown Prosecution Service and *(b)* local authorities for offences of (i) fly-tipping, (ii) graffiti, (iii) dog fouling, (iv) dropping of litter and (v) parking in each year since 2006. [46939]

**Mr Blunt:** The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for (i) fly-tipping offences, (ii) 'other' criminal damage, (iii) dog fouling, (iv) littering and (v) parking offences since 2006 is given in the table from 2006 to 2009 (latest available). The offence class of 'other' criminal damage includes, but cannot separately identify, offences of graffiti. Information collated centrally on court proceedings does not specifically identify the prosecuting authority.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication in spring 2011.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for selected offences, England and Wales, 2006 to 2009*[1,2,3]

| *Offence description* | *Statute* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fly-tipping | Environmental Protection Act 1990, s.33(6)(8)(9), 34 and 59; Control of Pollution Act (Amendment) Act 1989, s.1; Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978. | 1,791 | 1,842 | 1,817 | 1,772 |
| Other criminal damage | Explosive Substances Act 1883 s.2 (part), 3 (part); Malicious Damage Act 1861, ss.35, 36, 47 and 48; Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Area Act 1979; Criminal Damage Act 1971 s.1(1). | 13,478 | 12,848 | 8,567 | 6,345 |
| Dog fouling | Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996, s.3. | 404 | 376 | 478 | 680 |
| Littering | Environmental Protection Act 1990, s.87, 93, 94, 94(8)(9) as substituted by Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, s.21. | 2,031 | 3,066 | 3,571 | 4,449 |
| Parking | Road Traffic Act 1988, s.22; Road Traffic Act 1988, s.160, sch. 2A P.2(1)(2)(3)(4), and P.4 as added by Road Safety Act 2006, s.22 Transport Act 2000, s.173(5)(6)(7), 174(3), 175(2)(3)(4), 190; Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988, s.62(2); Traffic Management Act 2004, ss.78, 79, and 82. | 9,059[3] | 6,370 | 6,595 | 7,319 |

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

### Rape: Victim Support Schemes

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 21 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1166-67W, on rape: victim support schemes, what funding he has allocated to rape crisis centres in each year of the comprehensive spending review period; and what proportion of such funding will come from the victim surcharge. [46931]

**Mr Blunt:** The Government are committed to providing existing rape support centres with stable, long-term funding and developing new centres where there are gaps in provision. Funding has been allocated as follows:

*Existing rape support centres*

Over the next three-year period, the Ministry of Justice will provide up to £10.5 million in grant funding for existing rape support centres. This will give centres the financial certainty they need to build a sustainable presence.

*Development of new rape support centres*

In the first phase of a longer-term program of work to develop new centres in areas where there are gaps in provision, up to £600,000 in funding will be provided over the next 12 months to develop new rape support centres in Hereford, Devon, Trafford and Dorset.

We are currently working with the voluntary sector to finalise budgets for the four new centres for financial years 2012-13 and 2013-14 and to identify further areas where the need for such services is particularly acute.

It is intended that the commitment will be predominately funded from the proceeds of the victim surcharge. We are also in discussions with other interested departments about contributing towards its costs.

### Shoplifting: Sentencing

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many incidents of shoplifting led to a *(a)* caution and *(b)* conviction resulting in (i) probation and (ii) custodial sentences in each parliamentary constituency in the East of England in each year since 1999. [47024]

**Mr Blunt:** Information held by the Ministry of Justice on the number of offenders cautioned, found guilty and sentenced to a Community Rehabilitation Order, Community Order, Suspended Sentence and Immediate Custody at all courts for 'stealing from shops and stalls' (shoplifting), in the East of England region, 1999 to 2009, are shown in the following tables 1 and 2.

The court proceedings database does not hold specific information on the offender beyond age, gender and the court where the case was heard; therefore the Ministry of Justice cannot tell if the offender was a resident of the east of England region.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication in spring 2011.

*Table 1: Number of offenders cautioned[1, 2] for 'shoplifting'[3], east of England region 1999 to 2009[4]*

| *Region/police force area* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bedfordshire | 681 | 492 | 647 | 513 | 641 | 753 | 855 | 887 | 687 | 699 | 629 |
| Cambridgeshire | 433 | 532 | 430 | 428 | 420 | 550 | 843 | 770 | 601 | 748 | 739 |
| Essex | 1,016 | 946 | 1,014 | 810 | 767 | 805 | 1,277 | 2,069 | 2,611 | 1,305 | 2,130 |
| Hertfordshire | 568 | 704 | 777 | 604 | 662 | 760 | 749 | 897 | 980 | 852 | 989 |
| Norfolk | 573 | 638 | 495 | 382 | 400 | 580 | 648 | 886 | 708 | 538 | 424 |
| Suffolk | 379 | 572 | 599 | 396 | 428 | 466 | 487 | 521 | 604 | 510 | 537 |
| East of England region | 3,650 | 3,884 | 3,962 | 3,133 | 3,318 | 3,914 | 4,859 | 6,030 | 6,191 | 4,652 | 5,448 |

[1] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[3] Stealing from 'shops and stalls' (shoplifting) is an offence under Theft Act 1968. section 1.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

*Table 2: Number of offenders found guilty, sentenced and given a community rehabilitation order[1], community order[2], suspended sentence[3] or an immediate custodial sentence for 'Shoplifting'[4] at all courts, east of England region 1999 to 2009[5, 6, 7]*

| *Region/police force area* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Bedfordshire* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 798 | 805 | 867 | 916 | 1,098 | 1.073 | 879 | 551 | 594 | 652 | 608 |
| Total sentenced | 809 | 812 | 874 | 928 | 1,109 | 1,076 | 881 | 554 | 593 | 649 | 605 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Community rehabilitation order | 125 | 154 | 146 | 152 | 155 | 129 | 91 | — | — | — | — |
| Community order | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 40 | 100 | 110 | 142 | 143 |
| Suspended sentence | — | — | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 22 | 25 | 18 | 18 |
| Immediate custodial sentence | 176 | 213 | 236 | 268 | 312 | 285 | 229 | 106 | 112 | 123 | 106 |
| *Cambridgeshire* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 704 | 872 | 895 | 857 | 791 | 717 | 802 | 808 | 717 | 1,016 | 1,155 |
| Total sentenced | 701 | 869 | 897 | 353 | 791 | 716 | 803 | 808 | 710 | 993 | 1,145 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Community rehabilitation order | 68 | 116 | 121 | 171 | 124 | 124 | 39 | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Community order | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 92 | 152 | 152 | 248 | 239 |
| Suspended sentence | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | 11 | 33 | 45 | 76 | 67 |
| Immediate custodial sentence | 82 | 101 | 122 | 97 | 113 | 86 | 99 | 119 | 109 | 210 | 244 |
| *Essex* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,622 | 1,578 | 1,744 | 1,624 | 1,686 | 1,646 | 1,841 | 1,715 | 1,913 | 1,868 | 2,155 |

*Table 2: Number of offenders found guilty, sentenced and given a community rehabilitation order[1], community order[2], suspended sentence[3] or an immediate custodial sentence for 'Shoplifting'[4] at all courts, east of England region 1999 to 2009[5, 6, 7]*

| *Region/police force area* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total sentenced | 1,628 | 1,573 | 1,746 | 1,631 | 1,701 | 1,646 | 1,846 | 1,716 | 1,896 | 1,849 | 2,137 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Community rehabilitation order | 214 | 229 | 230 | 236 | 229 | 151 | 68 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| Community order | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 164 | 311 | 394 | 416 | 479 |
| Suspended sentence | 3 | — | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 36 | 98 | 113 | 76 | 109 |
| Immediate custodial sentence | 360 | 372 | 466 | 486 | 542 | 518 | 535 | 419 | 432 | 480 | 429 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Hertfordshire* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 779 | 889 | 917 | 964 | 1,051 | 1,130 | 1,126 | 874 | 846 | 929 | 1,127 |
| Total sentenced | 781 | 892 | 916 | 966 | 1,049 | 1,126 | 1,131 | 867 | 839 | 928 | 1,130 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Community rehabilitation order | 121 | 129 | 154 | 160 | 165 | 134 | 71 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Community order | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 106 | 178 | 182 | 211 | 265 |
| Suspended sentence | 1 | — | 1 | — | 2 | — | 18 | 40 | 43 | 47 | 64 |
| Immediate custodial sentence | 86 | 134 | 176 | 199 | 191 | 237 | 239 | 199 | 160 | 163 | 191 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Norfolk* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,027 | 991 | 1,088 | 1,045 | 944 | 925 | 923 | 1,040 | 885 | 865 | 1,024 |
| Total sentenced | 1,033 | 989 | 1,083 | 1,043 | 941 | 919 | 920 | 1,035 | 885 | 859 | 1,027 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Community rehabilitation order | 92 | 107 | 146 | 151 | 90 | 60 | 35 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Community order | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 116 | 256 | 192 | 200 | 211 |
| Suspended sentence | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | — | 14 | 56 | 36 | 43 | 53 |
| Immediate custodial sentence | 122 | 133 | 152 | 147 | 152 | 157 | 106 | 136 | 150 | 166 | 196 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Suffolk* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 666 | 749 | 771 | 743 | 839 | 726 | 745 | 659 | 732 | 604 | 753 |
| Total sentenced | 654 | 745 | 770 | 739 | 836 | 724 | 744 | 658 | 725 | 602 | 755 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Community rehabilitation order | 59 | 92 | 94 | 88 | 98 | 52 | 55 | 4 | 2 | 1 | — |
| Community order | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 27 | 77 | 131 | 114 | 154 |
| Suspended sentence | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 40 | 42 | 56 | 36 | 36 |
| Immediate custodial sentence | 101 | 106 | 102 | 112 | 132 | 104 | 110 | 111 | 99 | 88 | 113 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *East of England region* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 5,596 | 5,884 | 6,282 | 6,149 | 6,409 | 6,217 | 6,316 | 5,647 | 5,687 | 5,934 | 6,822 |
| Total sentenced | 5,606 | 5,880 | 6,286 | 6,160 | 6,427 | 6,207 | 6,325 | 5,636 | 5,648 | 5,880 | 6,799 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Community rehabilitation order | 679 | 827 | 891 | 958 | 861 | 650 | 359 | 17 | 8 | 11 | 15 |
| Community order | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 545 | 1,074 | 1,161 | 1,331 | 1,491 |
| Suspended sentence | 7 | 6 | 10 | 10 | 12 | 8 | 122 | 291 | 318 | 296 | 347 |

*Table 2: Number of offenders found guilty, sentenced and given a community rehabilitation order[1], community order[2], suspended sentence[3] or an immediate custodial sentence for 'Shoplifting'[4] at all courts, east of England region 1999 to 2009[5, 6, 7]*

| *Region/police force area* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Immediate custodial sentence | 927 | 1,059 | 1,254 | 1,309 | 1,442 | 1,387 | 1,318 | 1,090 | 1,062 | 1,230 | 1,279 |

n/a = Not applicable.

[1] Formerly a probation order.

[2] Under the Criminal Justice Act 2003, various types of community order previously available for adults (community punishment order, community rehabilitation order, drug treatment and testing order) were replaced by a single generic community order with a range of possible requirements. Courts are able to choose different elements to make up a bespoke community order, which is relevant to that particular offender and the crime(s) they committed.

[3] Fully suspended sentence prior to April 2005, Suspended Sentence Order for offences committed from 4 April 2005

[4] Stealing from 'shops and stalls' (shoplifting) is an offence under Theft Act 1968, section 1.

[5] These statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[6] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. however, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their Inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[7] The sentenced column may exceed those found guilty as it may be the case that a defendant found guilty, and committed for sentence at the Crown court, may be sentenced in the following year.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

### Terrorism: British Nationals Abroad

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimate his Department has made of the potential cost to the public purse of introducing the victims of overseas terrorism compensation scheme in each year of the comprehensive spending review period; [46933]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of claimants that would be eligible under the victims of overseas terrorism compensation scheme during the comprehensive spending review period. [46934]

**Mr Blunt:** Previous proposals for compensating victims of terrorism overseas are being considered alongside a review of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme (CICS) and wider victims' services.

We are working with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to establish estimates of the numbers of individuals who may be eligible for any ex-gratia scheme.

### Young Offenders: Reoffenders

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persistent young offenders are registered; and how many and what proportion of total offences were attributable to persistent young offenders in each police force area in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [47003]

**Mr Blunt:** There is no register of persistent young offenders and centrally available data do not provide the information requested.

### Youth Justice

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Youth Rehabilitation Orders; [46763]

(2) how many Youth Rehabilitation Orders have been issued in *(a)* the London borough of Bexley, *(b)* London and *(c)* England since their creation. [46765]

**Mr Blunt:** The Youth Rehabilitation Order (YRO) was introduced for offences committed from 30 November 2009 and an evaluation has not yet been undertaken.

Information on the number of YROs issued from this date, including the type of requirement attached to the order, age, gender and ethnicity of the offender was published in January 2011 as part of the Youth Justice Board's 2009-10 Youth Justice Statistics. These are available online on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/youth-justice-statistics.htm

Information on the number and type of YROs in the 2010-11 Youth Justice Statistics is planned to be published in January 2012.

A breakdown of YROs issued to date as requested is provided in the following table.

*Number of youth rehabilitation orders issued in London borough of Bexley, London and England between 30 November 2009 and 31 March 2010*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Bexley | 4 |
| London | 359 |
| England | 2,252 |

*Note:*

These figures have been drawn from Youth Offending Team administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Child Maintenance

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* non-resident parents and *(b)* parents with care called the Child Maintenance Options Service in the last 12 months. [46064]

**Maria Miller:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 11 March 2011:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many (a) non-resident parents and (b) parents with care called the Child Maintenance Options Service in the last 12 months. [46064]

The service is confidential and provision of personal information is voluntary. As such, not all callers provide information to create a client record and not all information is complete on every record.

In the 12 months to December 2010, around 57,100 inbound calls were from parents with care and 14,300 were from non-resident parents. 94,500 outbound calls were to parents with care and 1,100 were to non-resident parents. These figures are based on an extrapolation of the 60% of client records where the role of the caller was captured.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many referrals were made by the Child Maintenance Options Service to its face-to-face service in the last 12 months; what the criteria for referral were; and how many face-to-face interviews took place. [46065]

**Maria Miller:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 11 March 2011:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You; asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many referrals were made by the Child Maintenance Options Service to its face-to-face service in the last 12 months; what the criteria for referral were; and how many face-to-face interviews took place. [46065]

In the last 12 months to February 2011 a total of 4,357 requests were made for a face to face visit, of which 3,300 have been completed. The criteria for referral are shown in the list below.

Circumstances where a visit is always offered

Caller is 17 years or younger

Those that have; recently separated

Circumstances where visits can be offered

Low skills

Lives at home with parents

Disabilities

Emotional/Distressed

Mentions a key worker

Hard of hearing—If caller is finding it difficult to understand information

No friends or family nearby

Concerns alongside maintenance and requires help in prioritising actions

Foreign language calls

The remit of the Child Maintenance Options face-to-face consultants has recently been expanded to include community outreach. Consultants are visiting children's centres, Jobcentre Plus offices, Citizens Advice Bureaux and other key organisations and professionals who come into contact with separated and separating parents to promote awareness of the benefits of child maintenance to families and children.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in what proportion of Child Support Agency cases which have a positive maintenance liability is the weekly maintenance liability *(a)* less than £5, *(b)* between £5 and £10, *(c)* between £10 and £20, *(d)* between £20 and £30, *(e)* between £30 and £40, *(f)* between £40 and £50 and *(g)* £50 or above. [46066]

**Maria Miller:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 11 March 2011:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary Of State for Work and Pensions, in what percentage of Child Support Agency cases which have a positive maintenance liability is the weekly maintenance liability (a) less than £5, (b) between £5 and £10, (c) between £10 and £20, (d) between £20 and £30, (e) between £30 and £40,;(f) between £40 and £50 and (g) £50 or above. [46066]

The table below shows the percentage of cases with a current positive maintenance liability in each of the requested ongoing weekly maintenance bands in the quarter to December 2010. This includes cases administered both on and off system where an ongoing maintenance liability exists.

| *Assessment amount* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| Less than £5 | 16 |
| Between £5 and less than £10 | 24 |
| Between £10 and less than £20 | 6 |
| Between £20 and less than £30 | 9 |
| Between £30 and less than £40 | 13 |
| Between £40 and less than £50 | 10 |
| £50 or above | 22 |
| Total | 100 |

*Note:*

Arrears only cases are not included

I hope you find this answer helpful.

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of maintenance direct cases dealt with by the Child Support Agency (CSA) in 2009-10 reverted to the CSA's normal collection service during the course of the year at the request of the parent with care. [46067]

**Maria Miller:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 10 March 2011:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what proportion of maintenance direct cases dealt with by the Child Support Agency (CSA) in 2009-10 reverted to the CSA's normal collection service during the course of the year at the request of the parent with care. [46067]

In the quarter to March 2009, there were 165,300 maintenance direct cases. 10,400 (6%) of these had a liability to pay maintenance via the CSA collection service at least once in quarters ending

June 2009, September 2009, December 2009 or March 2010. The CSA does not record the reason why these cases reverted to the collection service.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

## Crisis Loans

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Social Fund crisis loan scheme cost to operate in each of the last five years. [45528]

**Steve Webb:** The administration of Social Fund crisis loans is carried out by Jobcentre Plus. The following table provides data back to 2006-07. This is the earliest time for which data are available for Social Fund activity. Data have been included up to and including 2009-10, the latest year for which audited Jobcentre Plus annual report and accounts are available.

*Social Fund crisis loan direct staff administration costs*

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 68.5 |
| 2008-09 | 46.4 |
| 2007-08 | 38.8 |
| 2006-07 | 24.0 |

*Notes:*
1. The costs shown represent the direct staff costs within Jobcentre Plus associated with Social Fund crisis loan activity. The basis for allocating management, support costs and head office costs has changed over this period and it would be disproportionately costly to attempt to include all of these costs on a comparable basis.
2. The increase in costs over the period above reflects an increase in the volumes of crisis loans. Volumes have increased as the Department has improved public awareness of the availability of crisis loans.
3. In 2009-10 face to face interviews were introduced where an individual made a third or subsequent request for a crisis loan within a rolling 12-month period. The aim of these interviews is to:
Help ensure that the fund is not being mis-used. Evidence suggests that on being invited to interview, significant numbers of applicants either terminate the telephone call or fail to attend the appointment.
Help sign-post genuine needy customers for independent money advice so that they can receive help with matters such as budgeting.
*Source*:
Jobcentre Plus Activity Based Management System

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reason the number of social fund crisis loans available to an individual in a 12-month period is to be set at three; and whether any discretion is to be available in respect of people facing hardship. [45607]

**Steve Webb:** As outlined in my written ministerial statement of 3 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 45-46WS, we are taking urgent action to ensure that we are able to meet the needs of those in genuine crisis while controlling continued growth in demand from a cash limited budget.

From 4 April, individuals will be limited to no more than three crisis loan awards in a rolling 12-month period. I believe that this restriction strikes the right level between effective help to customers in genuine crisis while preventing misuse of the system by others in attempts to gain further access to the limited funds available.

In exceptional circumstances, a decision maker can make a fourth or subsequent crisis loan award where the need is as the result of an emergency deemed not to be the result of an act or omission on the part of the applicant or partner and unavoidable.

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance he plans to provide to individuals who have exceeded the social fund crisis loan cap on accessing alternative sources of emergency financial assistance. [45646]

**Steve Webb:** Customers declined assistance from the Social Fund on the grounds that they have reached the limit of three awards in a 12-month period will have already been required to attend a face-to-face interview at which they are signposted to national and local organisations for independent financial and debt advice.

Additionally, Jobcentres maintain lists of local sources of assistance and will signpost customers as appropriate.

Exceptionally, those who are otherwise subject to the three awards in 12-months restriction can still access support from the Social Fund in certain circumstances. These include rent in advance, charges for board and lodging accommodation and for hostels. The restriction also does not apply to applicants whose applications, in the opinion of the decision maker, have arisen from a disaster or emergency.

## Crisis Loans: Bexley

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women resident in (i) Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and (ii) the London Borough of Bexley applied for a Social Fund crisis loan in the last five years for which figures are available; and in how many such cases a Social Fund crisis loan was granted; [45954]

(2) how much was paid in total to *(a)* men and *(b)* women resident in (i) Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and (ii) the London Borough of Bexley in Social Fund crisis loans in the last five years for which figures are available; and what the average payment was in each such case. [45957]

**Steve Webb:** The information requested is available only by Government office region or Jobcentre Plus Social Fund Budget area, not at constituency or local authority level. However that information cannot be split by gender.

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women resident in (i) Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and (ii) the London Borough of Bexley defaulted on Social Fund crisis loan repayments in the last five years for which figures are available; and what the total monetary value of such defaults was. [45956]

**Steve Webb:** The following information relates to the national position for crisis loan write-offs in the last five full financial years. The further detail by gender and location is not available/held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

| | *Total amount of crisis loans written off (£)* | *Total volume of crisis loans written off* |
|---|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 545,205 | 6,649 |
| 2008-09 | 567,076 | 7,001 |
| 2007-08 | 467,071 | 5,696 |
| 2006-07 | 473,320 | 5,379 |
| 2005-06 | 910,219 | 11,237 |

### Departmental Land

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will takes steps to reduce the size of his Department's estate; and if he will make a statement. [45890]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department aims to have an estate that: supports service needs; provides the right working environment for staff; and provides value for money for the taxpayer.

DWP now owns no estate assets of our own. Under a private finance initiative (known as PRIME), all market risks sit with Telereal Trillium at rent review and lease renewal and they use their prominent position in the market to ensure they obtain optimal outcomes.

We will need fewer sites as our core staffing numbers reduce following the spending review 2010. DWP is still developing the detail on the size and scale of universal credit and, therefore, our estate reductions need to be made in the light of that context. We will ensure that the reduction of estate capacity is measured and prudent, and will not add to delivery risks.

### Departmental Procurement

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many procurement projects with a monetary value greater than *(a)* £10 million, *(b)* £50 million and *(c)* £100 million (i) his Department and (ii) each non-departmental public body and agency for which he is responsible was engaged upon in the latest period for which figures are available. [45690]

**Chris Grayling:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* The Department has let three contracts and the Health and Safety Executive, an Executive agency of the Department, has let one with a value in excess of £10 million and less than £50 million in the period from 1 April 2010 to 14 March 2011. No contracts with a monetary value of greater than £10 million have been let by a non-departmental public body.

*(b)* No contracts were let in the period with a value of between £50 million to £100 million by the Department or one of its non-departmental public bodies.

*(c)* No contracts with a value in excess of £100 million were let in the period by one of the Departments non-departmental public bodies.

### Regulation

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what regulations his Department revoked between 8 February 2011 and 28 February 2011. [45983]

**Chris Grayling:** No regulations have been revoked by DWP between 8 February and 28 February 2011.

### Disability Living Allowance

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the criteria for receiving the *(a)* higher and *(b)* lower rate of disability living allowance (i) are and (ii) were in each of the last five years; what changes to such criteria are planned; and if he will make a statement. [45515]

**Maria Miller:** The current criteria for receipt of disability living allowance broadly rely on a disabled individual having prescribed levels of care or mobility needs. Entitlement to the three rates of the care component is established by an individual having care needs at a prescribed level. For example, someone who has care needs on a frequent or prolonged basis both day and night may be entitled to the highest rate care component. Entitlement to the mobility component does not work on a similar basis: the lower rate is available to people who require guidance or supervision when out of doors in unfamiliar places; and entitlement to the higher rate is, with some exceptions, available to people who, by virtue of a physical disability, are unable or virtually unable to walk. These entitlement criteria have remained unchanged over the last five years. Further details on the entitlement criteria are available on the Directgov website

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/FinancialSupport/DisabilityLivingAllowance/index.htm

From April entitlement to the higher rate mobility component will extended to people who have been certified as blind or severely visually impaired by an ophthalmologist and have a prescribed degree of visual impairment.

Awards of disability living allowance can currently be decided on the basis of self-reporting of need, and although medical evidence is sought for certain awards, it is not mandatory. The current system lacks consistency in the way it supports disabled people with similar needs; and decision making on awarding the benefit can be subjective. That is why from 2013 we will replace disability living allowance for people of working age with personal independence payment, a new, more transparent benefit with an objective assessment of individual need. Support through personal independence payment will be focussed on those who have the most barriers to overcome to live independently. The detailed criteria that will be used in the new assessment to determine eligibility are currently being developed and are being informed by the consultation which closed on 18 February. The Government are considering the feedback from this consultation exercise and will publish their response shortly.

### Disability Living Allowance: Autism

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals to amend the provisions of the Welfare Reform Bill which require people diagnosed with autism and in receipt of disability living allowance to undergo a face-to-face interview. [45975]

**Maria Miller:** We are considering the most appropriate delivery model for the personal independence payment assessment and no decisions have yet been taken on the detail of its operation, including how it will apply to existing DLA recipients. We believe that advice from a suitably trained and approved individual, for example a health care professional, will be an important part of ensuring that the assessment is more objective and consistent. In most cases, we expect this to involve a face-to-face consultation to enable an in-depth look at an individual's circumstances. Both I and departmental officials have met with the National Autistic Society to discuss our reform proposals and to seek their views on how the new benefit can best support those with autism. We agree with many of the points raised in the National Autistic Society's recent report on DLA reform, 'Who benefits?', and we are looking closely at how these recommendations can be incorporated into its design. To ensure that we get this reform right, we are keen to continue to work with disabled people and their organisations as the detail of the assessment criteria and its operation is developed and tested.

### Disability: Children

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the future of the disability benefits system for children aged under 16. [45848]

**Maria Miller:** Personal independence payment will replace disability living allowance for working-age (16-64) adults from 2013 and the new objective assessment is being designed to gather information about adult needs. We want to build on the experience of developing an assessment and applying it to new and existing claimants of working-age to inform our decisions about the arrangements for children. Therefore we will not consider extending the personal independence payment to new claims from children or to children already receiving DLA, until we have had an opportunity to consider the effectiveness of the new arrangements for working age people.

In developing the arrangements for children on DLA we also want to take account of ongoing work across Government. The Department for Education's Green Paper "Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability", published on 10 March, sets out the Government's aspiration to move towards a single assessment process for a child's social care, health and special educational needs. The Department for Education plan to test the approach starting this year and we will look at the findings of the pathfinders to explore whether the single assessment process might also be used to support claims for the disability living allowance and personal independence payment.

### Employment and Support Allowance

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what proportion of claimants in the (i) assessment phase and (ii) work-related activity group of employment and support allowance whose claim was of a duration of up to three months moved into (A) employment and (B) employment of 16 hours a week or more in each quarter for which figures are available; [39748]

(2) how many and what proportion of claimants in the (i) assessment phase and (ii) work-related activity group of employment and support allowance whose claim was of a duration of three to six months moved into (A) employment and (B) employment of 16 hours a week or more in each quarter for which figures are available; [39749]

(3) how many and what proportion of claimants in the (i) assessment phase and (ii) work-related activity group of employment and support allowance whose claim was of a duration of between six and 12 months moved into (A) employment and (B) employment of 16 hours a week or more in each quarter for which figures are available; [39750]

(4) how many and what proportion of claimants in the (i) assessment phase and (ii) work-related activity group of employment and support allowance whose claim was of a duration of between one and two years moved into (A) employment and (B) employment of 16 hours a week or more in each quarter for which figures are available. [39751]

**Chris Grayling:** The information requested on those leaving employment support allowance (ESA) and moving into work is not available.

Claimants leaving ESA are not required to inform the Department of their destinations or future intentions and hence the information that is collected on this group is incomplete.

For information, the following table breaks down the ESA caseload as at May 2010 by claim duration and phase of ESA in payment. These data are published on the DWP website.

*Case load (thousand)*

| | *ESA claim duration (May 2010)* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Up to 3 months* | *3 months up to 6 months* | *6 months up to 1 year* | *1 year and up to 2 years* | *Total* |
| Assessment phase | 136.05 | 74.03 | 74.46 | 36.31 | 320.85 |
| Work Related Activity Group | 0.96 | 14.45 | 43.47 | 50.38 | 109.27 |
| Support group | 0.69 | 5.4 | 16.08 | 16.94 | 39.11 |
| Unknown | 13.54 | 17.84 | 15.83 | 10.68 | 57.89 |
| Total | 151.23 | 111.73 | 149.85 | 114.31 | 527.12 |

*Note:*

Phase/stage of ESA claim is only available from February 2010 onwards. The phase is derived from payment details held on the source system. Where the claimant is not in receipt of any benefit payment then the stage of benefit is shown as unknown.

### Employment and Support Allowance: Mental Illness

**Alun Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to ensure that those with variable mental health conditions are not penalised for missing a work-focussed interview. [47275]

**Maria Miller:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Darra Singh:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking about the steps taken to ensure that those with variable mental health conditions are not penalised for missing a Work-Focussed Interview (WFI).

This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

We have in place a range of safeguards to ensure that vulnerable customers (including those with a mental health condition) are fully aware of the requirement to participate in a WFI. In particular, safeguard procedures for customers claiming Employment and Support Allowance include:

advising the customer at the point of claim about the requirement to undergo, and the purpose of, the work-focussed interview;

notifying the customer (in writing) of the date, time and place of the work-focused interview and asking them to get in touch if they cannot make it;

contacting the customer (by telephone) before each work-focused interview to remind them that it is due;

considering the context of each work-focused interview whether the interview should be waived or deferred;

offering them a more convenient location or a home visit where appropriate, and encouraging advocacy support if needed;

identifying any relevant issues from medical evidence where available, that might impact on attendance;

visiting those customers with whom there has been no verbal contact prior to the work-focused interview; and

visiting every customer, with a representative if appropriate, where it is known that the customer has a stated mental health condition or learning disability before a sanction is imposed.

By following the steps above, we ensure that we will contact the customer by telephone two days before the interview is scheduled to take place, to make sure that the appointment is appropriate. If it becomes clear from the customer or their advocate, at this point or during the WFI itself, that the agreed timing of the WFI is inappropriate for the customer's particular circumstances at that time, the WFI may be postponed to a later date. If it is clear that the presence of a carer is important, we would seek to arrange the WFI around the carer's availability.

For lone parents claiming income support, where there is evidence to believe that the customer falls into a vulnerable group, a home visit is always considered before a formal decision is made that they have failed to attend the work-focused interview.

Before sanctions are considered (for any benefit) the customer will be invited to show good cause, and there is a right of appeal against the decision to apply a sanction. Factors considered by the Decision Maker in establishing whether the customer had good cause include whether the person may have misunderstood the requirement to take part in an interview because of their varying mental health condition, and whether the person was suffering from a disability that made it impracticable for them to attend.

If a customer has failed to attend an appointment, or has committed another act or omission that warrants a sanction, then the Jobcentre Plus Decision Maker will consider all the available evidence before applying a sanction. This can of course include, but is not limited to, whether the failure was caused by a fluctuation in their health condition.

## Employment Schemes

**Alun Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he is taking steps to ensure that small and medium-sized enterprises can compete for contracts under the Work programme. [47276]

**Chris Grayling:** Throughout the Work programme competition the Department has emphasised the importance of and the expectation that bidding organisations will work with a broad range of sub-contractors and delivery partners to reflect the needs of the local customers and economies.

In total 30 organisations have bid to be work programme prime contractors.

As part of their bids, organisations have confirmed their intention to partner with a number of organisations of various sizes from all sectors who will be regular delivery partners during the lifetime of the work programme contracts.

**Alun Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made an estimate of the proportion of Work programme contracts which will awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises. [47277]

**Chris Grayling:** DWP has encouraged representation from small and medium enterprises in all its commercial competitions.

For the Work programme, only those organisations that are on DWP's the Employment Related Support Services Framework were able to bid, details of these organisations are published on the Supplying DWP website.

Until the commercial competition for the Work programme is complete we will not know which bidders have been successful or the size and type of organisations that will make up their supply chains.

**Teresa Pearce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of compatibility with regulations on the national minimum wage of the requirement for jobseekers to undertake work experience placements under the Work programme. [47351]

**Chris Grayling:** Once a jobseeker's allowance claimant is selected or volunteers, our intention is that participation in the Work programme will be required using powers in regulations made under section 17A of the Jobseeker's Act 1995. We plan to lay these regulations before Parliament shortly.

Where a Work programme provider requires a participant to complete work experience under these regulations, the activity concerned will be mandated and there will be no express or implied contract. Therefore the claimant will not fall within the definition of 'worker' and the National Minimum Wage Act 1998 will not apply.

## Industrial Health and Safety: Inspections

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many workplaces registered an *(a)* accident or *(b)* incident with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in each year since 2000; and on what date prior to each incident and accident an unannounced inspection had been carried out by HSE officials in those workplaces for which such information is available. [45973]

**Chris Grayling:** The information requested is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent *(a)* submissions and *(b)* representations he has received which propose an alternative workplace inspection model to the unannounced inspection model used by the Health and Safety Executive; and if he will make a statement. [45974]

**Chris Grayling:** The Secretary of State has the principal responsibility to Parliament for the Health and Safety Executive and routinely receives submissions and representations on their work. Recent submissions are concerned with a range of matters relating to the formulation and delivery of health and safety policy.

## Pensions

**Katy Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had on the levels of annuities offered by private pension providers. [42697]

**Mr Hoban:** I have been asked to reply.

Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

## Personal Independence Payment: Autism

**Mr Buckland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will put in place support for people with autism who lose eligibility for a personal independence payment or disability living allowance to take into account the challenges of adults with autism trying to access social care services. [45977]

**Maria Miller:** From 2013 we will replace disability living allowance for people of working age with personal independence payment, a new, more transparent and sustainable benefit with an objective assessment of individual need. Support through personal independence payment will be focused on those with the most need. The detailed design of the new assessment is currently being undertaken with the support of a group of independent specialists in health, social care and disability, including disabled people. This design will also be, informed by feedback from the public consultation which closed on 18 February 2011. I am, therefore, unable at this time to comment on the details of how the new assessment will impact on people with specific health conditions or impairments. We are committed to ensuring that it reflects the needs of all individuals effectively. We recognise that the current assessment criteria for disability living allowance can favour physical impairments and our proposals are that personal independence payment needs to improve the support provided to disabled people with mental, intellectual, cognitive and development impairments, including autistic spectrum disorders.

## Social Security Benefits: Fraud

**Stephen McPartland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many investigations of individuals suspected of benefit fraud have taken more than nine months in the latest period for which figures are available. [46045]

**Chris Grayling:** The information requested is not available, as to collate these data would incur a disproportionate cost.

## Third Sector

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what account he has taken of the compact between the Government and Civil Society in policy development. [42603]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department for Work and Pensions takes the compact with the civil society very seriously and has worked closely with local communities, voluntary sector organisations and others to embed the principles into our commissioning policies.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to support the Big Society initiative. [42644]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department for Work and Pensions has several programmes aimed at achieving the Big Society goals of catalysing social action, decentralising power and opening up public services. In October 2010 the Department introduced two new initiatives, Work Clubs and Work Together, which form part of a new range of back-to-work support being made available to jobseekers to get Britain working. Work Clubs are designed to be locally led and delivered, moving away from centrally-determined support, while Work Together seeks to promote the benefits of volunteering and raise customer awareness of local opportunities. Both initiatives fit with the Government's Big Society concept in that they encourage people to play an active role within their communities and support unemployed people in the locality.

With respect to benefits, the Government are introducing universal credit from 2013 to replace six separate benefits. This will reduce bureaucracy and make the system easier to navigate, but also place a greater emphasis on personal responsibility for finding employment. In addition, a number of Right to Control trailblazers across England are testing how disabled people can be given more choice and control over the funding they are eligible for, including funding to help them move into work. These trailblazers will help develop ways to create a more personalised service, pushing decision-making down to the lowest level. To replace Social Fund community care grants and crisis loans for general living expenses, locally-delivered systems of support will be provided. This will be delivered by local authorities in England and the devolved Administrations in Scotland and Wales. The new assistance will provide more relevant and better targeted support which can be aligned with existing provision at a local level.

As part of its Big Society ambition for older people, the Department is working in partnership with the Community Development Foundation to provide £1 million to fund 'Active at 60', a project that will help older people who are most at risk of loneliness and social isolation. Each local community organisation within the selected areas will recruit at least one Active at 60 Community Agent who will volunteer their time to help motivate, encourage and organise people within their own communities to become more active, physically, socially and mentally.

The Department is also working to develop older people's democratic involvement in their communities. These local networks will be linked through the English Forums on Ageing to the UK Advisory Forum on Ageing. The English Forums on Ageing also provide a channel of influence for older people on local delivery decisions and the aim is to build on these relationships to enable older people to take up the opportunities introduced in the Localism Bill.

More generally, the Government's local agenda is leading Jobcentre Plus to look for ways to better utilise the expertise of front-line staff, who will be given more freedom to tailor and coordinate services in ways that best meet the needs of their community. The Department is committed to ensure that staff have the flexibility to work in real partnerships at the local level; and to respond to local and customers' needs, including looking at the scope for closer working with partners in the co-ordination, location and design of services. This approach to worklessness balances a national benefit system with a range of other support delivered through different channels—the Government's own delivery organisations, private providers, other public sector organisations and the voluntary and community sector.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department are participating in volunteering activities as part of his Department's involvement in the Big Society initiative. [42664]

**Chris Grayling:** Lord Freud is a sponsor and board member of the charity 'Grand Mentors'. This is a charity where mainly older retired people mentor and tutor young individuals.

Steve Webb volunteers at a local Sunday school every week.

Iain Duncan-Smith is involved in the Big Society agenda via his work for the Centre of Social Justice.

The Department has introduced a number-of programmes aimed at achieving the Government's Big Society goals. These include the following initiatives; Work Clubs and Work Together for jobseekers, Active at 60 for older people and the Right to Control for disabled people.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Public Bills: Internet

**Natascha Engel:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether the dedicated website for public reading stages of Bills will inter-operate with the Your Freedom website. [41658]

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** The 'Your Freedom' website was open to the public from 1 July-10 September 2010, after which time it became part of the National Archives online. The site has therefore closed, meaning that there is no opportunity for it to inter-operate with live websites. The technical aspects of the Public Reading Stage website will be evaluated by the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Carbon Emissions: Housing

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 935W, on carbon emissions: biofuels, (1) which other energy generation technologies he defines as *(a)* zero-carbon technologies and *(b)* technologies which if used in domestic buildings would contribute nothing to their carbon emissions if it met the criterion of a minimum greenhouse gas emission saving of 60% over the use of a fossil fuel; [47183]

(2) whether he defines biomass as a technology which, if used in domestic buildings, would contribute nothing to their carbon emissions if it met the criterion of a minimum greenhouse gas emission saving of 60% over the use of a fossil fuel. [47187]

**Gregory Barker:** For practical purposes the Government regards technologies contributing to zero or low carbon policies as those which qualify for promotion under the provisions of the 2009 renewable energy directive. These include photovoltaics, sustainably-sourced biomass technologies (such as biomass combined heat and power, or energy from waste), hydro and wind. Other low carbon technologies include efficient ground and air sourced heat pumps.

Developers may use biomass technologies to comply with the requirements of part L of the building regulations which are being developed to implement the Government's zero carbon homes policy. Emissions associated with the production and transport of the fuel are taken into account in other sectors.

### Carbon Sequestration

**Alex Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department's carbon capture and storage (CCS) competition will take into account the creation of a CCS infrastructure to support industry as well as power generation. [47679]

**Gregory Barker:** As set out in the information note "UK Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Commercial Scale Demonstration Programme: Delivering Projects 2-4 (Further Information)" available from:

www.decc.gov.uk

published by my Department in December, applicants to the demonstration programme may propose projects that involve oversized CCS infrastructure capable of capturing, transporting or storing $CO_2$ exceeding the capacities required for the demonstration project. This could allow for future use by industrial $CO_2$ emitters.

We would expect that the additional cost of such oversizing of infrastructure be supported entirely by the applicant or other private sector investors without reimbursement by DECC and that it would not increase the overall risk to delivery of the demonstration project.

### Climate Change: International Co-operation

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 22 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 866W, on aviation: carbon emissions, if he will take steps to include the issue of global aviation emissions in the EU position for the Durban climate change conference. [47151]

**Gregory Barker:** The Government are committed to addressing emissions from international aviation and will continue to push actively for an ambitious global agreement on emissions reduction targets for both international aviation and maritime transport. At the EU Environment Council meeting on 14 March, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and other EU Ministers reiterated, in Conclusions adopted by the Council on the follow-up to the Cancun climate conference, the need to address these emissions. We will continue to work through the EU to press for progress to be made at the meeting later this year in Durban.

### Committee on Climate Change

**Craig Whittaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an assessment of the diversity of the range of scientific opinion on climate change that is represented on the Committee on Climate Change. [46870]

**Gregory Barker:** The Climate Change Act 2008 sets out a list of desirable expertise (including climate science, and other branches of environmental science), which is intended to broadly mirror the range of factors which the CCC is required to take into account in considering its advice. Taking this into account the membership of the CCC is kept under regular review with specific attention given to whether their work programme calls for additional expertise at either board level or by consulting outside when required.

I believe the current membership of the CCC contains a good mix of the relevant expertise (including scientific), and creates a committee which is focused and dynamic.

### Electricity Generation

**Craig Whittaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to ensure that studies of the cost of power generation technologies commissioned by his Department estimate separately the *(a)* generation and *(b)* carbon costs associated with such technologies. [46869]

**Gregory Barker:** DECC already ensures that estimates of power generation costs commissioned by the Department estimate carbon costs and generation costs separately. The following information is an example of cost information from the last such study, by Mott MacDonald. DECC is currently undertaking an update of these cost estimates which will include the same level of detail.

The following table is taken from Mott MacDonald (2010) and gives levelised cost estimates (average generation cost per megawatt-hour) for new build plants in the main large-scale electricity generation technologies in the UK, including both fossil fuel and low carbon plant, at current engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract prices. This demonstrates how the cost estimates are separated into component parts. The report and data sets that DECC hold break this down further still.

It should be noted that for the purposes of presentation, the table only gives either 'FOAK' (first-of-a-kind) prices or 'NOAK' (nth-of-a-kind) prices for each technology. The full report can be accessed via this link:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/statistics/projections/71-uk-electricity-generation-costs-update-.pdf

*Table 1: 10% discount rate, 2009 project start at today's EPC prices, with mixed FOAK/NOAK*

| *Levelised cost* | *Gas CCGT* | *Gas CCGT with CCS (FOAK)* | *ASC coal* | *ASC coal with CCS (FOAK)* | *Coal IGCC (FOAK)* | *Coal IGCC with CCS (FOAK)* | *Onshore wind* | *Offshore wind (FOAK)* | *Offshore wind R3 (FOAK)* | *Nuclear PWR (FOAK)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Capital costs | 12.4 | 29.8 | 33.4 | 74.1 | 61.7 | 82.0 | 79.2 | 124.1 | 144.6 | 77.3 |
| Fixed operating costs | 3.7 | 7.7 | 8.6 | 18.6 | 9.7 | 17.7 | 14.6 | 36.7 | 45.8 | 12.2 |
| Variable operating costs | 2.3 | 3.6 | 2.2 | 4.7 | 3.4 | 4.6 | — | — | — | 2.1 |
| Fuel costs | 46.9 | 65.0 | 19.9 | 28.7 | 20.3 | 28.3 | — | — | — | 5.3 |
| Carbon costs | 15.1 | 2.1 | 40.3 | 6.5 | 39.6 | 5.5 | — | — | — | — |
| Decomm and waste fund | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2.1 |
| $CO_2$ transport and storage | — | 4.3 | — | 9.6 | — | 9.5 | — | — | — | — |
| Steam revenue | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total levelised cost | 80.3 | 112.5 | 104. 5 | 142.1 | 134.6 | 147.6 | 93.9 | 160.9 | 190.S | 99.0 |

*Source*:
Mott Macdonald (2010), UK Electricity Generation Costs Update

It should be noted that the estimates of levelised costs for different types of electricity generation are highly sensitive to the assumptions used for capital costs, fuel and EU ETS allowance prices, operating costs, load factor, and other drivers. Meaning that there is significant uncertainty around these estimates.

**Craig Whittaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the cost per megawatt hour, excluding the cost of carbon, of electricity generated from *(a)* coal, *(b)* biomass and *(c)* oil in the latest period for which figures are available. [46872]

**Charles Hendry:** The table is taken from Mott MacDonald (2010) and gives levelised cost estimates (average generation cost per megawatt-hour) for new build coal and biomass plants. The Mott MacDonald report gives the cost estimates for the main large-scale electricity generation technologies in the UK, including both fossil fuel and low carbon plant, at current engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract prices. The Department does not have estimates for the cost of new oil plant.

It should be noted that for the purposes of presentation, the table only gives either 'FOAK' (first-of-a-kind) prices or 'NOAK' (nth-of-a-kind) prices for each technology.

The full report can be accessed via the following link:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/statistics/projections/71-uk-electricity-generation-costs-update-.pdf

*Table 1: 10% discount rate, 2009 project start at today's EPC prices, with mixed FOAK/NOAK*

| *Levelised cost* | *ASC Coal* | *Large Biomass (FOAK)* |
|---|---|---|
| Capital costs | 33.4 | 46.1 |
| Fixed operating costs | 8.6 | 13.4 |
| Variable operating costs | 2.2 | 2.5 |
| Fuel costs | 19.9 | 31.2 |
| Carbon costs | 40.3 | - |
| Total levelised cost | 104.5 | 93.2 |

*Source:*
Mott Macdonald (2010), UK Electricity Generation Costs Update

It should be noted that the estimates of levelised costs for different types of electricity generation are highly sensitive to the assumptions used for capital costs, fuel and EU ETS allowance prices, operating costs, load factor, and other drivers, meaning that there is significant uncertainty around these estimates.

### Electricity Interconnectors: Iceland

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 438W, on energy: EU action, what discussions he has had with his Icelandic counterpart on proposals for an electricity cable between Iceland and Great Britain. [47146]

**Charles Hendry:** I have not met the Icelandic Minister but my officials have had discussions with Icelandic power companies about the possibility of building an electricity interconnector between Iceland and Great Britain. At the Prime Minister's UK-Nordic-Baltic summit in January this year, which was attended by the Icelandic Prime Minister, it was agreed that the countries concerned should co-operate in areas of mutual interest, including ways of accelerating the low-carbon transition. This is an example of a project which could be of benefit to both the UK and Iceland. However, there are a number of regulatory, technical, legal and commercial issues which would need to be explored before any decision can be made by any potential developers on the viability of such a project. We will be taking forward any legal and regulatory issues which fall to Government with the appropriate Icelandic parties.

### Fuel Poverty: Rural Areas

**Craig Whittaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the likely level of fuel poverty in rural areas in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* the UK. [46871]

**Gregory Barker:** In 2008, there were around 847,000 rural households in England that were fuel poor (equivalent to around 20% of all rural households).

In Wales in 2008, there were around 152,000 rural households that were fuel poor (around 34% of all rural households in Wales).

Combining most recent available data from each country of the UK leads to an estimate of around 1.275 million rural households in fuel poverty, around 24% of all rural households.

**Dr Wollaston:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the level of fuel poverty in rural areas in *(a)* Totnes constituency, *(b)* South Devon, *(c)* the South West and *(d)* England. [47572]

**Gregory Barker:** The following table shows the number of households and the number of rural households in fuel poverty in 2008, the latest year for which this information is available.

| | | *Thousand* |
|---|---|---|
| *Geographical area* | *Number of households in fuel poverty* | *Number of rural households in fuel poverty* |
| *(a)* Totnes constituency | 7 | n/a |
| *(b)* South Devon[1] | 31 | n/a |
| *(c)* South West | 339 | 152 |
| *(d)* England | 3,335 | 847 |

[1] South Devon here comprises the following local authorities: Plymouth, South Hams and Torbay.

The number of rural fuel poor households is not available for geographical areas smaller than Government office region.

### Fuel: Prices

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment his Department has made of the potential effects of speculation on oil prices. [47308]

**Charles Hendry:** Given the complex nature of the market, it is extremely difficult to distinguish financial players from physical players. Furthermore, not all financial market activity is speculative. For example, through their active participation in the market, hedgers can provide market liquidity and reduce price risk.

We recognise that non-commercial activity in financial oil markets can have a transitory impact on prices. The Government have not yet seen clear, robust evidence that this type of activity can have a long-term price impact.

### Hinkley Point C Power Station

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to provide support for communities adversely affected by the proposed Hinkley C connection project. [45483]

**Charles Hendry:** Support for communities affected by major infrastructure projects can be provided in a number of ways. Within the planning system, planning obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy can be used to provide for site-specific mitigation and for general infrastructure contributions. Developers may also work with communities outside these mechanisms to review benefits for the local area. An example is the recent community benefit protocol published by RenewableUK.

In addition, the Government are creating a framework of incentives for local authorities to deliver sustainable economic development. This includes consideration of proposals to deliver better incentives, through the business rates system, for local authorities to promote growth. The Local Government Resource Review will deliver proposals on this by July this summer.

### Nuclear Power Stations

**Graham Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the safety of nuclear power plants in the UK. [47230]

**Charles Hendry:** In the light of the events in Japan, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), has called on the chief nuclear inspector, Dr Mike Weightman for a thorough report on the implications of the situation in Japan and the lessons to be learned. This will be prepared in close co-operation internationally with other nuclear regulators, with an interim report in May and a final report within six months.

It is essential that we understand the full facts and their implications, both for existing nuclear reactors and any new programme, as safety is always our number one concern.

### Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

**Sheryll Murray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration he has given to the potential effect on the UK's reputation as an investment destination of potential changes to the qualification criteria for projects already initiated arising from this review of feed-in tariffs. [46862]

**Gregory Barker:** We have always stated that the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme would be subjected to periodic reviews, including early reviews to consider any significant changes to the fundamentals affecting the operation of the scheme.

We have been clear that there are no intentions to act retrospectively. Any changes implemented as a result of the review will only affect new entrants into the scheme.

### Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what projection he has made of the level of take-up of solar photovoltaics for the feed-in tariff scheme in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [45858]

**Gregory Barker:** Modelling for projected take-up of feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme was undertaken by the previous Administration prior to the implementation of the scheme. The projected uptake for new solar photovoltaics (PV) in 2010-11 was 20,309 and 34,544 for 2011-12.

A copy of the projections can be found in the Libraries of the House.

### Squatting

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many buildings on his Department's estate were occupied by squatters in each year between 2006 and 2010; and on how many occasions his Department sought interim possession orders to remove squatters from such buildings in each of those years. [47615]

**Gregory Barker:** Since its formation in October 2008, no buildings on the DECC estate have been occupied by squatters. Therefore no interim possession orders have been sought in that period.

### Wind Power

**Craig Whittaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the Mott MacDonald report, "UK Electricity Generating Costs update", in determining the commercial viability of offshore wind. [46868]

**Charles Hendry:** DECC commissioned Mott MacDonald consultants to provide an updated assessment of electricity generation costs. The generation costs data provided by Mott MacDonald were used in the power market modelling by Redpoint consultants of options for electricity market reform[1]. In modelling the generation and capacity mix under different scenarios, the Redpoint model looks at the commercial incentives to invest in different generation technologies.

As part of the RO banding review, we are also reviewing the level of support for all renewables technologies accredited under the renewables obligation (RO) from 2013-14 to 2016-17, and will consult on any changes to RO bands this summer. As part of that process, we have asked our consultants Arup and Ernst and Young to provide updated assumptions on potential deployment and costs for each renewable electricity technology.

[1] Details of the consultation on electricity market reform are available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/emr/emr.aspx

### Wind Power: Planning Permission

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what timetable he has set for taking decisions on consent on Round 2 offshore wind farm applications which have not yet been approved. [46268]

**Charles Hendry:** There are four remaining Round 2 offshore wind farms consent applications which are with the Department for consideration. These are large schemes which have the potential to impact (both on their own and in combination with other projects) on environmental resources and on the interests of organisations and people and so have to be given careful consideration. We are waiting for information from each of the developers involved in the projects but will determine the applications as soon as possible once all the issues raised have been thoroughly assessed.

In the Major Infrastructure Planning Reform Workplan published in December, Ministers undertook to determine the pre-Planning Act schemes at the earliest opportunity. We are working to enable the cases to be determined at the earliest opportunity.

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the time taken by his Department was to process each application for consent for Round 2 offshore wind developments which have so far been approved. [46269]

**Charles Hendry:** The time taken to process applications for those Round 2 offshore wind farm developments which have been approved are as follows:

| | | *Months* |
|---|---|---|
| London Array | Consented in December 2006 | 18 |
| Thanet | December 2006 | 13 |
| Greater Gabbard | February 2007 | 16 |
| Walney | November 2007 | 20 |
| Gunfleet Sands II | February 2008 | 8 |
| Sheringham Shoal | August 2008 | 27 |
| West of Duddon Sands | September 2008 | 29 |
| Lincs | October 2008 | 20 |
| Gwynt y Môr | December 2008 | 37 |
| Humber Gateway | February 2010 | 35 |

The time scales reflect the large scale of the Round 2 projects that have been dealt with (ranging from 64 MW with 18 turbines to 1,000 MW with up to 341 turbines) and the need for developers to consider and address a number of potentially complex issues raised during consultation, particularly the impacts of developments on navigation, civil and military aviation and birds. Satisfactory resolution of any such issues, which on occasion can take the developers some considerable time, is required before the Department can take decisions on the specific applications.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Battery Cages

16. **Rehman Chishti:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had on the introduction of a prohibition on battery cages for laying hens. [47211]

**Mrs Spelman:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier to questions 6 and 7.

### Dairy Farming

18. **Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the practice of intensive dairy farming; and if she will make a statement. [47214]

**Mr Paice:** All dairy farming is covered by the Animal Welfare Act and the Farm Animal Welfare Regulations. These will apply equally to all livestock farms, regardless of scale.

As long as these standards are met, the Government recognise that the UK market has a place for "sustainable intensification" and more traditional production and added-value production, to enable the industry to be competitive in UK, EU and global markets.

### Fish Discards

20. **Stephen Metcalfe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had on reductions in fishing discards; and if she will make a statement. [47216]

**Richard Benyon:** I was delighted to participate in a recent high-level meeting on discards with the EU Commission and other member states, who agreed with the UK that tackling discards must be a priority for common fisheries policy reform and that action must be taken now.

There was a constructive and positive debate about measures needed as part of reform. The UK is clear that these must be practical, effective and developed in co-operation with industry.

**Dr Alan Whitehead:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proposals she has to reduce the incidence of fish discards. [47212]

**Richard Benyon:** The UK is working to eliminate discards through targeting the principal reasons for discarding. We continue to take action domestically—working with our fishing industry to increase the selectivity of fishing gears and improve the utilisation of unavoidable catches. We are also trialling a system of catch quotas to reduce discards and better control fishing mortality.

The UK sees the reform of the common fisheries policy as key to solving this problem and will work hard to influence and shape the policy.

### Animal Welfare

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding her Department allocated to research and development on *(a)* sustainable farming and food and *(b)* animal health and welfare in each of the last five years; and how much such funding she plans to allocate in each of the next four financial years. [34262]

**Mr Paice:** Table 1 shows DEFRA's expenditure on farming and food and animal health and welfare research and development over the last five financial years.

*Table 1*

*£ million*

| | *DEFRA research and development spend on farming and food science* | *DEFRA research and development spend on animal health and welfare* | *Total DEFRA agricultural research and development spending* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 29 | 35 | 64 |
| 2008-09 | 29 | 36 | 65 |
| 2007-08 | 29 | 39 | 68 |
| 2006-07 | 34 | 41 | 75 |
| 2005-06 | 38 | 40 | 78 |

*Source:*
Data taken from the Science and Information System

DEFRA now allocates budgets on the basis of evidence, rather than research and development.

Evidence is defined as reliable and accurate information that DEFRA can use to support sound decisions in developing, shaping, and evaluating policy. It includes research and development, monitoring and surveillance, economic and statistical analysis and modelling, secondary analysis and synthesis, and analysis of stakeholder views.

Evidence allocations have been made for 2011-12 and are shown in Table 2 with the equivalent figures for 2010-11.

*Table 2*

*£ million*

| | *Evidence budget allocations for farming and food* | *Evidence budget allocations for animal health and welfare* |
|---|---|---|
| 2010-11 | 43 | 66 |
| 2011-12 | 42 | 62 |

Final allocations for individual policy areas for subsequent years have not yet been determined as a proportion of the total available has been retained as a reserve. Flexibility in the evidence allocation process for 2012-13 onwards is essential so that we can adjust our investment in evidence to respond to developing challenges.

Across all DEFRA policy areas, a total of £43 million evidence savings will be found by 2014-15 against a core DEFRA evidence baseline of approximately £210 million in 2010-11; this is in proportion to the overall cuts in DEFRA's programme spend. For comparison, the budget for evidence in 2009-10 was £213 million, of which £125 million was classified as research.

### Animals: Crime

**Pamela Nash:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding she has allocated over the period of the comprehensive spending review to reduce the level of illegal trade in animals and animal products. [47205]

**Richard Benyon:** DEFRA provides funding for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Total funding levels for the next four years have yet to be agreed. The National Wildlife Crime Unit will be funded for the next two years.

DEFRA provides no funding to delivery agents but continues to provide policy and risk advice to the UK Border Agency which has enforcement responsibility for illegal imports of animal products.

### Common Agricultural Policy

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had on reform of the common agricultural policy; and if she will make a statement. [47203]

**John Howell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had on reform of the common agricultural policy; and if she will make a statement. [47213]

**Mrs Spelman:** Lord Henley attended Agriculture Council to represent the UK. I spent two days this week in Brussels where the Environment Council discussed CAP reform and met Members of the European Parliament, including the officers and rapporteur of the Agriculture Committee, to discuss CAP reform as-the European Parliament has the power of co-decision.

### Cotton: EU Action

**Mr David:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many occasions she has raised the issue of cotton subsidies in the EU Council of Ministers; and if she will make a statement. [46181]

**Mr Paice:** The UK has consistently argued in Brussels in favour of decoupling and against harmful export subsidies, although the specific subject of cotton subsidies has not been raised at the Agriculture Council itself in the period since May 2010.

The forthcoming Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform negotiations will provide a major opportunity for the UK to raise this issue and seek an end to all coupled payments, including those to the cotton sector.

### Dairy Farming: Animal Welfare

**Nic Dakin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects on animal welfare of zero-grazed dairy herds; and if she will make a statement. [47198]

**Mr Paice:** Research ending in 2003 concluded that zero grazing systems were associated with higher than average lameness compared with other dairy farms. However, the level of stockmanship and housing were found to be better in zero grazing systems, as practised in the UK. Overall, the welfare of cows in zero grazing systems is equivalent to other dairy systems.

We are currently funding another project to investigate the management and welfare of continuously housed cows.

### Regulation

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what regulations her Department revoked between 3 February and 28 February 2011. [45980]

**Mr Paice:** The Department revoked the following two statutory instruments between 3 February and 28 February 2011:

The Seed Marketing Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/2605)

The Poultry Meat (Water Content) Regulations 1984 (SI 1984/1145).

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what regulations her Department introduced between 9 and 28 February 2011. [47047]

**Richard Benyon:** The Department made the following 11 statutory instruments between 9 and 28 February 2011:

1. Marine Licensing (Application Fees) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/564)

2. Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (Commencement No 5, Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Order 2011 (SI 2011/556)

3. Seed Marketing Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/463)

4. Reporting of Prices of Milk Products (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/456)

5. Bovine Semen (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/454)

6. Poultrymeat (England) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/452)

7. Natural Mineral Water, Spring Water and Bottled Drinking Water (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/451)

8. Marine Licensing (Register of Licensing Information) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/424)

9. Petroleum Act 1998 (Specified Pipelines) Order 2011 (SI 2011/423)

10. Marine Licensing (Exempted Activities) Order 2011 > PART 3 (SI 2011/409)

11. Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/405).

### Oil: Accidents

**Craig Whittaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many oil spills at *(a)* residential and *(b)* commercial properties in each region were reported in each of the last five years. [46193]

**Richard Benyon:** The numbers of oil spills at residential and commercial premises are set out in the following tables. These figures are from the Environment Agency's National Incident Recording System and are split into Environment Agency regions.

*Oil pollution incidents—commercial*

| | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EA Wales | 84 | 69 | 73 | 88 | 90 |
| Anglian | 177 | 155 | 134 | 130 | 127 |
| Midlands | 274 | 207 | 255 | 197 | 216 |
| North East | 105 | 112 | 113 | 127 | 124 |
| North West | 94 | 72 | 56 | 73 | 78 |
| Southern | 96 | 94 | 80 | 114 | 123 |
| South West | 190 | 169 | 136 | 135 | 121 |
| Thames | 134 | 97 | 117 | 105 | 108 |

*Oil pollution incidents—residential*

| | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EA Wales | 43 | 36 | 34 | 36 | 53 |
| Anglian | 68 | 80 | 78 | 59 | 62 |
| Midlands | 56 | 64 | 51 | 35 | 56 |
| North East | 25 | 19 | 22 | 13 | 17 |
| North West | 15 | 16 | 16 | 11 | 9 |
| Southern | 73 | 53 | 63 | 38 | 48 |
| South West | 108 | 93 | 92 | 83 | 79 |
| Thames | 37 | 49 | 32 | 41 | 48 |

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Community Development

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps his Department has taken to encourage citizen participation in local democracy. [46865]

**Grant Shapps:** The Government are taking forward a range of action to encourage participation in local democracy.

On 7 December we launched a call for talented community champions to consider standing as local councillors in the upcoming local elections. We highlighted by a press notice on 13 February that there were just 50 days left for people to sign up as candidates in the elections. And throughout the year Government have supported the Local Government Leadership's website, where details about becoming a councillor can be found:

www.beacouncillor.org.uk/

To enable the public to act as "armchair auditors", we are increasing the transparency of council spending, including by publishing on 7 February a draft Code of Recommended Practice for local authorities on data transparency.

On 23 February we wrote to principal local authorities to emphasise the importance of their giving citizens the opportunity to access and experience their local democracy using modern communication methods, so they can blog, tweet and film during proceedings and disseminate their recordings or comments via social media networks.

Our Localism Bill, which completed its Committee stage on 10 March, includes provisions that will give residents the power to instigate local referendums on any local issue, and to approve or veto in a referendum excessive council tax increases, and establishes a Neighbourhood Planning regime giving the whole neighbourhood a say, through a referendum, on whether proposals are acceptable.

We have recently approved a further year's funding for the Participatory Budgeting Unit, a third sector organisation, to provide advice and guidance on Participatory Budgeting, which gives people a direct say over how part of a local budget is spent.

We have continued to support Take Part, an active citizenship and leadership learning programme aimed at increasing the skills, knowledge and confidence of individuals to have more of a say in their local area. The Take Part website was launched in February 2011 and can be viewed at:

www.takepart.org

We have continued the Empowerment Fund up until March 2012, supporting voluntary and community sector organisations to help people play a greater part in civic life.

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps his Department has taken to improve facilities for local community use. [46867]

**Andrew Stunell:** The Department's goal is to put individuals and groups in the driving seat in their communities, with Government playing an enabling role in building a big society.

A key plank of this strategy will be delivered through the Localism Bill, which will introduce new Community Rights. The Community Right to Buy will give community organisations a better chance to bid to take over assets and facilities that are important to them to save them for community use.

The Community Right to Challenge will hand the initiative to voluntary and community bodies with good ideas about how services could be run better or more cost effectively, ensure these ideas get a fair hearing, and give them the time they need to organise themselves and develop their ideas to be able to bid to run the service.

Local authorities will be required to maintain a list of public and private assets of community value. When the owner of a listed asset wants to sell it, a window of opportunity will come into effect to give communities more time to develop a bid and raise the necessary capital. They will then be in a better position to bid to buy the asset when it comes on the market at the end of the window of opportunity.

The new provision will help local communities to save important community assets, tackle social need and build up resources and employment in their neighbourhood in more innovative, enterprising and cost-effective ways. In particular, it will give communities the chance to save facilities threatened with closure that are important to them.

The Department has also extended funding for the Asset Transfer Unit enabling it to continue to offer practical support to communities who want to take on community assets such as youth centres, libraries, museums and former town halls for the benefit of local people.

We will provide support to help community organisations take advantage of their new rights. We are currently consulting on the detail of both rights—including the support which would be most helpful. These consultation documents can be viewed on the DCLG website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/decentralisation/localismbill/communityrights/

## Community Relations

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps his Department has taken to improve community relations between different populations. [46866]

**Andrew Stunell:** Integration and positive relations between different populations are integral parts of the big society. As the Prime Minister set out in his recent speech in Munich, integration is fostered by meaningful and active participation in society, which is achieved by shifting the balance of power away from the state and towards the people, and by initiatives such as the National Citizen Service. DCLG also recently awarded the Church Urban Fund £5 million to promote interaction in local communities between people of different faiths, through a new programme called Near Neighbours. DCLG are considering what additional, specific activities are needed to improve integration and overcome divisions in communities. We are working to develop a cross-government approach by May 2011.

## Departmental Land

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to reduce the size of his Department's estate; and if he will make a statement. [46220]

**Robert Neill:** The Department for Communities and Local Government's Estate Strategy focuses on reducing the size and cost of its estate through the surrender of facilities at appropriate lease break/end opportunities, through the consolidation and collocation of business operations and by maximising space efficiency by further implementing flexible working practices.

An example of our Strategy in action is where we are working to reduce the cost and size of the Government Offices for the Regions estate, in advance of their abolition on 31 March 2011. This work will reduce the size of that estate from 14 buildings currently to 10 buildings by the end of 2011-12 and down to seven by the end of the spending review period. The retained buildings will be used by a range of Government Departments.

The Government announced in spending review 2010 that as a first step to introducing a more co-ordinated approach to property management in the central civil office estate they would set up, through the Government Property Unit, Property Vehicles for the Central London and Bristol office estates from 2011-12.

Property Vehicles will be responsible for managing a more co-ordinated government-wide approach to property. They will manage the estate strategically, achieving more efficient use of the property assets, as well as working with Departments to reduce their estates and maximise the commercial potential of their property portfolios.

Furthermore the Government announced this month a new system of National Property Controls across the central civil estate. These controls require Departments to adopt a common, disciplined commercial approach to the use of the estate. These build on the success of the Lease Moratorium introduced in May 2010, which to date has reduced property costs by around £50 million.

The Department is co-operating fully with both these Government Property Unit-led initiatives in order to drive down the size of the Department's estate.

### Departmental Location

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to relocate *(a)* staff and *(b)* offices of his Department to Brighton; and if he will make a statement. [43472]

**Robert Neill:** The Department for Communities and Local Government does not propose to relocate staff and/or offices to Brighton. This is due to the leasehold agreement signed by the last Administration on the Department's building at Eland house, Victoria.

### Departmental Procurement

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many procurement projects with a monetary value greater than *(a)* £10 million, *(b)* £50 million and *(c)* £100 million (i) his Department and (ii) each non-departmental public body and agency for which he is responsible was engaged upon in the latest period for which figures are available. [45551]

**Robert Neill:** No contracts with a monetary value of greater than £10 million have been awarded in the last financial year, 2009-10 or the current one, 2010-11.

Information on costs incurred by public bodies sponsored by the Department is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which procurement projects engaged upon by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental public body and agency for which he is responsible had a designated senior responsible owner in the latest period for which figures are available; and on what date each officer was appointed in each such case. [45552]

**Robert Neill:** This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All contract awards over £20,000 would have a senior responsible officer. Identifying them and ascertaining when they were appointed could be established only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether receipts from the sale of assets owned by regional development agencies are reflected in the spending plans of his Department for *(a)* 2012-13 and *(b)* 2013-14. [47414]

**Robert Neill:** Only £100 million of income from regional development agencies asset disposals in 2013-14 is incorporated in departmental spending plans. If this income is not fully realised we have contingency funding to meet any shortfall.

### Departmental Rail Travel

**Mr Godsiff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of civil servants in his Department are entitled to travel first class by rail within the UK. [47075]

**Robert Neill:** In line with the Government's announcement on 24 May 2010, all civil servants in the Department are expected to travel standard class unless they can demonstrate a good business reason for not doing so, for example when a first class ticket is cheaper than a standard ticket. Any first class travel must be agreed in advance by directors or above.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of written questions tabled to him for answer on a named day between 27 May 2010 and 9 March 2011 did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer. [46556]

**Robert Neill:** The number of written questions for answer on a named day received by the Department for answer in the period 27 May 2010 to 9 March 2011 was 603. 14% of these (85 questions) were not answered substantively on the due date. The corresponding proportion for the 2009-10 Session was 18% (66 questions out of 371).

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 Session were recently provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

### Housing: Construction

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to take steps to encourage self-build home projects. [47088]

**Grant Shapps:** Self-builders are already one of the country's largest house builders. They form an important part of the Government's strong commitment to increasing the supply of affordable and sustainable homes and promoting economic growth.

This is why we have invited industry experts to work with us on a Government-industry working group to prepare an action plan, which will set out the concrete steps needed to make it easier for people to build their own homes, whether on their own or as part of a community effort to create a new neighbourhood.

The working group has identified finance availability as a key challenge to the growth of the industry. A sub-group of industry experts will be examining finance issues in detail, and will identify any actions that can be taken to support self-builders. The group will be making recommendations to me by the summer.

### Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

**Gordon Henderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans his Department has to review the rules relating to the requirement to pay rates on empty properties. [46874]

**Robert Neill:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 8 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 178W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Newark (Patrick Mercer).

### Northwest Regional Development Agency

**Alison McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has made an assessment of the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* effect on employment levels in the north-west of the transfer to the Department for Communities and Local Government of the Northwest Regional Development Agency's European regional development fund management support function. [45801]

**Robert Neill:** The transfer of this function is governed by the Cabinet Office Statement of Practice on Staff Transfers in the Public Sector 2000 (COSOP) which provides rights for the transfer of the existing staff. All those who work for at least half their time on the European Regional Development Fund will transfer to the Department for Communities and Local Government. The precise costs and employment impacts were assessed on this basis, and will become clearer post transition.

### Trade Unions

**Andrew Griffiths:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidelines his Department issues to local authorities on payments to trade unions *(a)* in cash and *(b)* in kind. [43843]

**Robert Neill:** No guidance was issued by the last Government. Individual councils, in their role as employers, are responsible for the decisions about how to manage their workforce, interact with local trade unions and ensure value for money for the taxpayer.

The new Government's transparency agenda will help to ensure that cash payments to trade unions and the titles of staff posts are open to public scrutiny.

At a time when councils need to make sensible savings to help pay off the budget deficit, councillors will rightly wish to review the merits of (full-time) union officials funded by the taxpayer and the provision of office facilities to trade unions.

## EDUCATION

### Academies

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the minimum required number of pupils in a school to support academy status in *(a)* primary and *(b)* first schools. [37017]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 31 January 2011]:* There is a legal requirement under independent school regulations, which apply to all academies, for there to be a minimum of five students of compulsory school age per independent school. The Department issues no separate requirement regarding the number of pupils required for academy status and each application is considered separately. Collaboration with other schools is encouraged for all types of academy, either as part of a formal partnership or joining an existing academy trust with a proven track record of school improvement. This may be particularly attractive to small schools wishing to share resources. In general, head teachers and school governors will be best placed to know what will work for their school.

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools approached his Department to request advice on conversion to academy status between May 2010 and January 2011. [38553]

**Mr Gibb:** The Department has responded to large volumes of telephone and e-mail inquiries from schools seeking advice about converting to academy status, although numbers of such inquiries are not recorded. Between May 2010 and the end of January 2011 the Department received 2,611 specific Registrations of Interest in becoming an academy under the Academies Act.

### Academies: Pupil Exclusions

**Karl McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the effect on the number of pupils excluded from school of trends in the number of schools becoming academies; and what provision he plans to make for pupils excluded from such academies. [46995]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 15 March 2011]:* I do not expect to see any significant changes in exclusion figures as a result of more schools converting to academy status.

Under current arrangements, pupils who have been permanently excluded from an academy will become the responsibility of the local authority, which will find appropriate educational provision for that pupil. All academies must take part in the local in-year Fair Access Protocol which requires them to admit their fair share of challenging pupils, some of whom are likely to have been excluded from another school.

We intend to test a new approach to permanent exclusions where schools have a duty to arrange alternative provision for excluded pupils. The objective of this policy is to improve outcomes for pupils at risk of exclusion or who have been permanently excluded from school.

### Academies: Rotherham

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will place in the Library a copy of each *(a)* letter and *(b)* e-mail his Department has received of support for the Three Valleys independent academy, Rotherham. [45361]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 10 March 2011]:* As part of their initial proposal, Three Valleys independent academy provided the Department with representations from 423 supporters. The majority of these representations are as part of a petition or a short standard statement of support. As such, we regard them as made in confidence to the proposer and do not think it would be appropriate to provide the Library with a copy of them.

### Aiming High for Disabled Children

**Yasmin Qureshi:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future provision of funding through the Aiming High for Disabled Children grant in *(a)* Bolton South East constituency, *(b)* Bolton. [44830]

**Sarah Teather:** Funding for disabled children's services will be provided through the new early intervention grant (EIG). We have made over £800 million available to local authorities over the spending review period for the provision of short breaks for disabled children and their families, which represents a small increase in available funding compared with the 2010-11 financial year.

As this figure is not ring fenced it will be for local authorities to determine how they use that resource to best effect, including what services would be funded for families with disabled children.

Local authorities received details of their EIG allocation just before Christmas.

### Building Schools for the Future Programme: Sandwell

**James Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how much interest is due under private finance initiative arrangements to the equity holders of the Building Schools for the Future Wave 3 project number PRJ-S148 commissioned by Sandwell metropolitan borough council; [41400]

(2) how much funding has been allocated through private finance initiative arrangements to the Building Schools for the Future Wave 3 project number PRJ-S148 commissioned by Sandwell metropolitan borough council; [41408]

(3) if he will estimate the capital value of the Building Schools for the Future Wave 3 project number PRJ-S148 commissioned by Sandwell metropolitan borough council; [41409]

(4) what the company name is of each equity holder of the Building Schools for the Future Wave 3 project number PRJ-S148 commissioned by Sandwell metropolitan borough council; [41410]

(5) if he will estimate the total interest payments to be paid to the equity holders of the Building Schools for the Future Wave 3 project number PRJ-S148 commissioned by Sandwell metropolitan borough council; [41411]

(6) if he will estimate the total level of payments to be made to the equity holders of the Building Schools for the Future Wave 3 project number PRJ-S148 commissioned by Sandwell metropolitan borough council; [41412]

(7) what estimate he has made of the capital value spent through private finance initiative on the Building Schools for the Future Wave 3 project number PRJ-S148 commissioned by Sandwell metropolitan borough council; [41413]

(8) what the cost to the public purse is of the Building Schools for the Future Wave 3 project number PRJ-S148 commissioned by Sandwell metropolitan borough council. [41415]

**Mr Gibb:** The Building Schools for the Future project number PRJ-S148 is still in the construction phase and no interest is due to be paid until the schools enter into operation. There are three schools on the site, opening on a phased basis over approximately three months from late February.

£67.45 million of PFI credits have been allocated to the project. The capital value is estimated to be £51.1 million.

The equity holders of the project are Interserve, Barclays Private Equity, Building Schools for the Future Investments, Sandwell metropolitan borough council and Sandwell Futures Ltd.

Information about the estimated total interest payments to be paid and the total level of payments to be made to equity holders of the project is contained within documentation which is defined as commercially sensitive information in accordance with the terms of the project agreement entered into by Sandwell metropolitan borough council and the contractor.

In terms of cost to the public purse, the total unitary charge forecast to be paid over the life of the contract is £176.8 million. In addition to the cost of construction and financing, this covers maintenance, life cycle and facilities management costs over 25 years.

### CAFCASS

**Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has received reports of Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service managers allocating cases to practitioners without the consent of that practitioner. [46031]

**Tim Loughton:** The Department does not record specific information on representations received about the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service managers allocating cases to practitioners without the consent of that employee.

Searches of the Department's correspondence system have not located any such reports.

### Early Intervention Grant Allocations

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what estimate he has made of the amount of money which local authorities will be expected to hold back from their early intervention grant allocation to facilitate results-based payments in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; [39459]

(2) when he plans to announce early intervention grant allocations for *(a)* 2012-13 and *(b)* 2013-14; [39465]

(3) which 20 local authorities have had the greatest reduction in the level of their early intervention grant allocation for 2010-11; [39467]

(4) how much funding he has drawn from other Departments for the purposes of funding the early intervention grant. [39468]

**Sarah Teather:** The early intervention grant is an un-ring-fenced and un-hypothecated grant. Local authorities are therefore free to decide, taking into account the views of their communities, how best to use it, including developing their own payment by results systems at a local level. The Department has as yet not published proposals for results-based payments and will work with a small number of local authorities to trial new approaches.

The Secretary of State for Education, the right hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), announced indicative allocations for the early intervention grant on 13 December 2010 for 2011-12 and 2012-13. Final allocations for 2011-12 will be announced before the beginning of the new financial year. Similarly, it is expected that final allocations for 2012-13 will be announced in March 2012. Indicative allocations for 2013-14 have not been announced and no date has been set although they are likely to be published as part of the local government settlement in December 2012, with final allocations being announced in the following March.

The early intervention grant (EIG) did not exist in 2010-11. However, funding within the grant in 2011-12 has been allocated in a transparent way with a focus on disadvantage, prevention and a premium on early years. Most of the EIG has been allocated using the Department's existing early years formula, with the remainder allocated according to a youth services formula. A notional 2010-11 baseline for each authority based on an aggregation of 2010-11 predecessor grants was created and a floor was applied to the 2011-12 allocations so that no authority loses more than 12.9% compared to their 2010-11 baseline. Half of the authorities sit on this 12.9% floor and so it is not possible to name 20 local authorities who have had the greatest reduction in the level of their EIG allocation.

The new early intervention grant will provide a substantial funding stream to enable local authorities to act more strategically and target investment early, where it will have greatest impact. The grant provides local authorities with funding to support early intervention and preventative programmes. Funding for the grant has been provided as part of the DFE spending review settlement. Further additional funding of £10 million from the Home Office to go into the early intervention grant was announced on 2 February 2011.

Further details can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a0070450/written-ministerial-statement-by-the-secretary-of-state-for-education-on-schools-financial-settlement-education-spending

### Education Maintenance Allowance

**Teresa Pearce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 80W, on the education maintenance allowance, how many *(a)* current students and *(b)* students who were surveyed as part of the National Foundation for Education Research study into education maintenance allowance attained (i) at least four A* to C grades at GCSE, (ii) at least five D to G grades at GCSE and (iii) at least one GCSE qualification. [34169]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 17 January 2011]:* There are no administrative data on GCSE attainment by receipt or non-receipt of education maintenance allowance (EMA).

The research carried out by National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER), working in partnership with Triangle and QA Research, was based on a sample of young people who were chosen to be representative of young people aged 16 and 17 in terms of their prior attainment as well as other factors, for example, gender, and post-16 destination. The following table sets out prior attainment of young people sampled compared with those nationally. The study did not explore GCSE attainment by receipt or non-receipt of EMA.

*Summary of achieved sample by key characteristics compared with national data*

*Percentage*

| | *Self-reported* | *CCIS local data* | *National dataset* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Gender* | | | |
| Male | 50 | 50 | 51 |
| Female | 50 | 50 | 49 |
| *Achievement* | | | |
| 5+ A*-C | 69 | n/a | 68 |

### Education Maintenance Allowance: Bolton South East

**Yasmin Qureshi:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students will have their education maintenance allowance payments terminated before their programme of study is complete in *(a)* Bolton South East constituency, *(b)* Bolton and *(c)* England. [44755]

**Mr Gibb:** The information requested is not available centrally as we do not hold data that link EMA recipients to the courses they take or the duration of their courses.

### Education Maintenance Allowance: Comprehensive Spending Review

**John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the costs to the public purse of replacing education maintenance allowance over the comprehensive spending review period; and if he will make a statement. [39503]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 10 February 2011]:* We are working with the Young People's Learning Agency, which administers the education maintenance allowance (EMA) on behalf of the Department for Education, to assess any costs that may arise from the replacement of EMA with a package of financial support that is better targeted to those students facing the greatest financial barriers to participation.

### Education: Finance

**Julian Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has assessed the average cost per pupil of educating children aged 16 to 18 years in *(a)* school sixth forms and *(b)* further education colleges. [44692]

**Mr Gibb:** The Government fund 16-19 education on the basis of average costs for particular types of courses. The funding paid to schools and colleges takes account of the different programme types and the number of hours required. These costs are reviewed annually.

The White Paper "The importance of teaching", published in November 2010, set out the Government's commitment to end the disparity in funding for 16 to 18-year-olds so that by 2015 schools and colleges are funded at the same level as one another.

### Education: Ofsted

**Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to require Ofsted to take into account pupil success rates when assessing the education provided by school sixth forms. [44555]

**Mr Gibb:** Ofsted supports the work of the Department for Education and Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to develop standard performance measures for all 16-18 provision, including work to develop success rates for school sixth forms. When standardised performance data become available, inclusive of all 16-18 provision, Ofsted will use the data provided in a consistent way across all the remits it inspects.

### EU Educational Policy

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many EU-branded diaries schools in England received in 2010; [38923]

(2) what discussions his Department has had with the European Commission on the sending of EU-branded diaries to schools; and if he will make a statement. [38924]

**Justin Tomlinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the cost was of the 350,000 EU-produced school diaries distributed to UK schools to *(a)* the Government and *(b)* the EU. [42749]

**Mr Gibb:** The Department has not had any discussions with the European Commission about the EU-branded diaries. In addition, I refer my hon. Friends to the replies given by the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my noble Friend, Lord Howell of Guildford, on 7 February 2011, *Official Report, House of Lords,* columns WA15-16 and on 1 March 2011, *Official Report, House of Lords,* column WA304, to questions about the diaries.

### EU Youth on the Move Strategy

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the *(a)* likely effect on and *(b)* cost to his Department of the implementation of the EU Youth on the Move strategy; which policies of his Department will be affected; and if he will make a statement. [44284]

**Mr Gibb:** There are no direct policy implications for the Department arising from the European Commission's Youth on the Move strategy. It is up to EU member states to decide what action, if any, should be taken in response to the strategy, in the light of their own circumstances and national policies. We expect more detail on the actions proposed under the strategy to emerge over the next 12 months. The Government will closely examine these proposals, to ensure that they support and supplement domestic policy, and do not result in an increase in EU competence in the field of education. We will also make an assessment of the likely costs involved in the process.

### Family Rights Group: Finance

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the funding for the Family Rights helpline from March 2011; and if he will make a statement. [24438]

**Sarah Teather:** The Department opened a new procurement process on 6 December 2010 to fund family support telephone helplines and online services from April 2011. One of the aims of the family services procurement is to support children and young people in England through supporting their parents and families, with a particular focus on early intervention support for the most disadvantaged parents and families with early intervention. The Family Rights Group was eligible to submit an application under this process.

The procurement process was delayed in January while we considered the full implications for the family sector after the Department for Education's spending review settlement. Departmental officials contacted organisations on 25 February about the outcome of their applications under the first stage of the procurement process. For those organisations invited to submit bids under the second stage of the process, officials also provided full details of the tender and a revised procurement timetable.

In view of the delay, officials contacted the Family Rights Group and other organisations currently in receipt of departmental funding to provide telephone helpline and online services on 25 February offering them extensions to their existing grants or contracts for up to three months from 1 April 2011. This will ensure continuity of service provision to families for the duration of the current procurement exercise.

I will write to the hon. Member to let her know the outcome of the procurement process once it is completed.

### Food Technology: Education

**Justin Tomlinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the retention of the requirement that all Key Stage 3 pupils should receive at least 24 hours of practical cookery lessons. [38311]

**Mr Gibb:** On 20 January the Secretary of State announced that we are conducting a review of the national curriculum at both primary and secondary levels. This review will include consideration of the status of design and technology (and all its constituent modules).

### Free Schools

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the average cost per pupil of free schools *(a)* including and *(b)* excluding start-up costs. [39928]

**Mr Gibb:** Revenue funding for free schools is on an equivalent basis to maintained schools and academies in the same local authority. Every free school is different and the costs will vary between projects. Many of these costs are yet to be determined and paid, so it is not currently possible to calculate the average cost per pupil of free schools. Full details of the support costs of free school projects will be made available shortly after a free school opens, when a total figure is known.

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education which free schools have had their business case and funding agreement approved; and how much funding has been allocated in each case for *(a)* acquisition, *(b)* major works and *(c)* other costs. [44114]

**Mr Gibb:** 11 free school proposals have had their business case and plans approved and are at the pre-opening stage.

The Secretary of State has now signed the first funding agreement, for the West London free school in the London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. As the acquisition of the permanent site has yet to be completed, we are unable to release details of the acquisition or refurbishment costs at this stage.

For other costs such as support costs for free school projects, we have yet to finalise them and these will be made available when the school opens.

### GCSE : Mathematics and English

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average proportion of pupils per school *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in the London borough of Lambeth was who achieved five or more GCSEs including mathematics and English at grade (i) A*, (ii) A or above, (iii) B or above and (iv) C or above in the latest period for which figures are available. [39774]

**Mr Gibb:** The information requested is in the following table and covers pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in maintained secondary schools that were published in the 2010 Secondary School Performance Tables.

| | | *Average number of pupils per school achieving 5 or more GCSEs including English and mathematics at grades:* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Average number of pupils per school at the end of Key Stage 4* | *A** | *A*-A* | *A*-B* | *A*-C* |
| London borough of Lambeth | 107.7 | 0.5 | 4.6 | 18.5 | 48.0 |
| England | 151.5 | 2.1 | 13.3 | 36.6 | 75.9 |

### Music: Education

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the review of music education led by Darren Henley will consider the ability of children whose families cannot afford to pay for lessons to learn a musical instrument. [40643]

**Mr Gibb:** We want every child to learn a musical instrument and to sing. We are making a substantial investment in music services because we are determined that every child will have access to a quality music education, including those from families that cannot afford to pay for private lessons. We have protected money to the front line, and we shall be setting out our plans, later this year, in a National Plan for Music Education, which will set out proposals for how music services can continue to provide access to good quality music education for all children in state funded schools.

**Andrew Stephenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for standards of music tuition in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools. [43192]

**Mr Gibb:** Following the review carried out by Mr Henley we are making a substantial investment into music education because we are determined that every child will have access to a quality music education.

We shall be setting out our plans on music tuition, later this year, in a National Plan for Music Education and in a Teach Music First programme, which will enable our best young musicians to spend time teaching in schools.

### Primary Education: Finance

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the proportion of funding for primary and secondary education in England derived from *(a)* public and *(b)* private sources in the latest period for which figures are available. [44603]

**Mr Gibb:** Private income in each of primary and secondary local authority maintained schools in England accounted for 0.8% of their respective incomes for the financial year 2009-10. Hence the remaining 99.2% of funding within each phase was derived from public sources.

These data are taken from the 2009-10 Section 251 outturn statements submitted by local authorities to the Department. All figures are available on the DfE website:

http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/xls/o/outturn%20summary%202009%2010.xls

### Pupils: Disability

**Lyn Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the provision of funding for children with disabilities in *(a)* West Ham constituency, *(b)* Newham and *(c)* London through the Aiming High for Disabled Children grant. [26488]

**Sarah Teather:** Funding for disabled children's services will be provided through the new Early Intervention Grant (EIG). We have made over £800 million available to local authorities over the spending review period for the provision of short breaks for disabled children and their families, which represents a small increase in available funding compared to the 2010-11 financial year.

As this figure is not ring-fenced it will be for local authorities to determine how they use that resource to best effect, including what services would be funded for families with disabled children.

Local authorities received details of their EIG allocation for 2011-12 and 2012-13 just before Christmas.

### Schools

**Christopher Pincher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will bring forward proposals to promote vertical integration between primary and secondary schools. [37122]

**Mr Gibb:** It is important for primary and secondary schools to work closely together, particularly at the transition point between primary and secondary, to ensure children who are struggling are getting the help they need. But getting the fundamentals of literacy and numeracy right early on is crucial to a child's success in secondary education and throughout their adult life.

We are committed to raising standards in literacy, and ensuring that no child gets left behind at school. As set out in our White Paper, one of the ways we aim to achieve this goal is by strengthening the use of systematic synthetic phonics in the teaching of reading. We are introducing a new phonics screening check for children in Year 1, which will help to ensure that six-year-old children have grasped the essential phonics that underpin good reading as well as identify the children who need extra help so they are given support by their school to improve their reading skills.

Our White Paper also set out our commitment to mathematics specialism in primary schools. It also reiterated our belief that schools are best placed to make decisions about pupils' needs and about school improvement.

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the establishment of schools for pupils aged between 14 and 19. [44621]

**Mr Gibb:** We recognise the importance of education and training for 14 to 19-year-olds and the need for opportunities allowing them to follow the curriculum most appropriate to them.

In addition to raising standards at existing schools the Government are supporting and incentivising innovation which is firmly linked to employer needs by establishing different types of academy, including university technical colleges (UTCs) and studio schools, which are specifically aimed at vocational education for 14 to 19-year-olds.

We expect the vast majority of 14 and 15-year-olds to follow the national curriculum and take GCSEs and, where appropriate, other qualifications at level 2. In her report which was published on 3 March 2011, Professor Alison Wolf is supportive of young people under 16 being able to enrol in further education colleges and UTCs, but she stresses the importance of a core academic programme for all pre-16, regardless of the type of educational institution a young person is attending. We are currently considering all of Professor Wolf's recommendations and will publish a Government response in the spring.

There are currently three sponsored academies (including one UTC and one "standalone" studio school), one studio school within a maintained school, 10 community, one community special, two foundation and five voluntary controlled schools, all with a 14 to 19 age range.

## Schools: Closures

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what consultations he has undertaken on the proposal to give the Secretary of State power to close schools that have received an intervention order. [37868]

**Mr Gibb:** The Secretary of State for Education currently only has the power to direct a local authority to close one of its maintained schools where it is eligible for intervention as a result of it being judged by Ofsted as requiring special measures. The Education Bill extends this power to those schools which are not only eligible for intervention because they require special measures but also eligible for intervention as a result of being judged by Ofsted as requiring significant improvement or those which have failed to comply with a performance standards and safety warning notice.

"The Importance of Teaching" Schools White Paper, which was published in November, set out the Government's plans to tackle consistent underperformance. In particular it highlighted the Government's aim to transform some of the most challenging schools in the country by imposing academy solutions. The White Paper outlined the provisions which would be taken in the Education Bill to strengthen the Secretary of State's intervention powers and set out the plan:

> "to extend the Secretary of State's closure powers to schools subject to a notice to improve."

During the development of the White Paper, and since its publication, Ministers and officials have had regular engagement with interested parties and discussed the key issues and policies of importance to them. This has allowed us to take on board the views of a range of organisations and interested parties. These discussions will continue now the Bill is at the Committee stage.

## Schools: Ethnic Groups

**Damian Hinds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of pupils attending *(a)* Church of England, *(b)* Catholic, *(c)* other denominational or faith and *(d)* other maintained (i) secondary and (ii) primary schools in (A) Greater London and (B) nationally were from each ethnic group in academic year 2009-10. [43675]

**Mr Gibb:** The requested information is shown in the table.

*Maintained primary and state-funded secondary schools[1,2]: percentage of pupils by ethnic group[3,4] by religious character of the school, as at January 2010 in greater London and England*

*Pupils of compulsory school age and above*

| | | Maintained primary schools[1] | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Greater London | | | | England | | | |
| | | Church of England | Roman Catholic | Other religious character | No religious character | Church of England | Roman Catholic | Other religious character | No religious character |
| White | | 49.3 | 51.4 | 70.2 | 41.5 | 86.1 | 78.7 | 81.7 | 76.3 |
| | White British | 39.6 | 33.8 | 59.5 | 30.8 | 82.5 | 70.1 | 76.9 | 71.9 |
| | Irish | 0.4 | 4.0 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 1.7 | 0.1 | 0.2 |

*Maintained primary and state-funded secondary schools[1,2]: percentage of pupils by ethnic group[3,4] by religious character of the school. as at January 2010 in greater London and England*

*Pupils of compulsory school age and above*

| | | *Maintained primary schools[1]* | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Greater London* | | | | *England* | | | |
| | | *Church of England* | *Roman Catholic* | *Other religious character* | *No religious character* | *Church of England* | *Roman Catholic* | *Other religious character* | *No religious character* |
| | Traveller of Irish heritage | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| | Gypsy/Roma | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| | Any other White background | 9.2 | 13.2 | 10.7 | 10.0 | 3.2 | 6.6 | 4.6 | 3.9 |
| Mixed | | 9.8 | 9.7 | 4.6 | 8.6 | 3.6 | 5.3 | 3.3 | 4.4 |
| | White and Black Caribbean | 3.0 | 2.3 | 0.2 | 2.7 | 1.0 | 1.4 | 0.6 | 1.4 |
| | White and Black African | 1.3 | 1.4 | 0.2 | 1.1 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0.5 |
| | White and Asian | 1.5 | 1.6 | 0.6 | 1.3 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 0.7 | 1.0 |
| | Any other Mixed background | 4.0 | 4.4 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 1.3 | 2.1 | 1.7 | 1.6 |
| Asian | | 8.5 | 6.4 | 9.5 | 22.7 | 5.2 | 5.4 | 8.2 | 11.5 |
| | Indian | 1.7 | 2.1 | 5.2 | 6.3 | 1.4 | 2.1 | 2.9 | 2.9 |
| | Pakistani | 1.2 | 0.2 | 3.0 | 5.1 | 2.4 | 1.2 | 4.4 | 4.9 |
| | Bangladeshi | 3.5 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 6.6 | 0.8 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 2.1 |
| | Any other Asian background | 2.0 | 3.8 | 0.8 | 4.6 | 0.6 | 1.8 | 0.6 | 1.5 |
| Black | | 26.2 | 26.5 | 7.2 | 20.2 | 3.3 | 8.1 | 3.1 | 5.1 |
| | Black Caribbean | 9.5 | 5.4 | 1.4 | 5.9 | 1.1 | 1.7 | 0.5 | 1.4 |
| | Black African | 13.9 | 18.1 | 4.9 | 12.2 | 1.8 | 5.3 | 2.2 | 3.1 |
| | Any other Black background | 2.8 | 3.0 | 1.0 | 2.1 | 0.4 | 1.0 | 0.4 | 0.6 |
| Chinese | | 1.0 | 0.4 | 0.1 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.4 |
| Any other ethnic group | | 4.1 | 4.9 | 6.4 | 5.3 | 0.8 | 1.7 | 2.1 | 1.6 |
| Classified[4] | | 98.8 | 99.2 | 98.1 | 99.0 | 99.3 | 99.4 | 98.8 | 99.3 |
| Unclassified[5] | | 1.2 | 0.8 | 1.9 | 1.0 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 1.2 | 0.7 |
| Minority ethnic pupils[6] | | 59.2 | 65.4 | 38.7 | 68.2 | 16.9 | 29.3 | 21.9 | 27.4 |
| All pupils[7] | | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

*Pupils of compulsory school age and above*

| | | *State-funded secondary schools[1,2]* | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Greater London* | | | | *England* | | | |
| | | *Church of England* | *Roman Catholic* | *Other religious character* | *No religious character* | *Church of England* | *Roman Catholic* | *Other religious character* | *No religious character* |
| White | | 40.9 | 47.8 | 39.9 | 45.7 | 80.0 | 79.4 | 75.2 | 81.7 |
| | White British | 33.6 | 32.9 | 29.3 | 36.9 | 76.7 | 71.2 | 70.6 | 78.2 |
| | Irish | 0.4 | 4.2 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 1.9 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| | Traveller of Irish heritage | 0.0 | 0.1 | — | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| | Gypsy/Roma | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| | Any other White background | 6.8 | 10.6 | 10.3 | 8.2 | 3.0 | 6.2 | 4.2 | 3.1 |

*Pupils of compulsory school age and above*

*State-funded secondary schools*[1,2]

| | | *Greater London* | | | | *England* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Church of England* | *Roman Catholic* | *Other religious character* | *No religious character* | *Church of England* | *Roman Catholic* | *Other religious character* | *No religious character* |
| Mixed | | 7.8 | 8.4 | 6.4 | 7.5 | 3.7 | 4.5 | 3.6 | 3.4 |
| | White and Black Caribbean | 2.4 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 1.1 | 1.2 |
| | White and Black African | 1.0 | 1.1 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| | White and Asian | 1.1 | 1.4 | 0.4 | 1.1 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.7 |
| | Any other Mixed background | 3.3 | 3.7 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 1.4 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 1.2 |
| Asian | | 12.7 | 7.7 | 10.4 | 21.4 | 5.9 | 4.6 | 9.5 | 8.4 |
| | Indian | 2.8 | 2.7 | 5.8 | 7.1 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 4.0 | 2.6 |
| | Pakistani | 1.2 | 1.0 | 1.4 | 4.6 | 1.7 | 1.0 | 3.4 | 3.3 |
| | Bangladeshi | 5.3 | 0.6 | 2.0 | 5.4 | 1.2 | 0.3 | 1.0 | 1.4 |
| | Any other Asian background | 3.4 | 3.5 | 1.2 | 4.3 | 1.1 | 1.6 | 1.0 | 1.2 |
| Black | | 31.3 | 29.0 | 16.0 | 18.1 | 7.4 | 8.3 | 4.9 | 3.8 |
| | Black Caribbean | 10.4 | 7.2 | 7.4 | 5.9 | 2.4 | 2.1 | 1.7 | 1.2 |
| | Black African | 17.4 | 18.7 | 7.0 | 10.5 | 4.1 | 5.3 | 2.6 | 2.1 |
| | Any other Black background | 3.6 | 3.1 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.4 |
| Chinese | | 1.2 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.4 |
| Any other ethnic group | | 4.8 | 5.0 | 6.3 | 5.0 | 1.3 | 1.6 | 1.9 | 1.1 |
| Classified[4] | | 98.7 | 98.3 | 79.3 | 98.5 | 98.8 | 98.8 | 95.7 | 98.8 |
| Unclassified[5] | | 1.3 | 1.7 | 20.7 | 1.5 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 4.3 | 1.2 |
| Minority ethnic pupils[6] | | 65.1 | 65.4 | 50.0 | 61.6 | 22.1 | 27.6 | 25.1 | 20.5 |
| All pupils[7] | | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.
[3] Pupils of compulsory school age and above were classified according to ethnic group. Excludes dually registered pupils.
[4] Number of pupils by ethnic group expressed as a percentage of all pupils of compulsory school age and above.
[5] Information refused or not obtained.
[6] Includes all pupils classified as belonging to an ethnic group other than White British.
[7] All pupils of compulsory school age and above.
[8] Percentage based on less than five pupils.

*Source:*
School Census and EduBase

## Schools: Warrington

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent discussions he has had on the school building programme in Warrington; and when he expects to announce those school building projects which are to go ahead. [40259]

**Mr Gibb:** The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), has had no discussions on the school building programme in Warrington. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools, my noble Friend Lord Hill, has had two discussions about school buildings with the hon. Member for Warrington South (David Mowat) on 26 July and 25 November last year. The hon. Member for Warrington North took part in the latter discussion.

No further announcements on capital for maintained schools will be made for 2011-12. Details of capital from 2012-13 will depend on the outcome of the capital review and we aim to publish the final report shortly. However, the level of support for basic need and for capital maintenance for each year to 2014-15 is expected to stay in line with the total amount allocated for 2011-12.

### Schools: Wolverhampton

**Emma Reynolds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when schools and further education colleges in Wolverhampton will be informed of their allocation of discretionary learner support for 2011-12. [44669]

**Mr Gibb:** We will be announcing details of the new arrangements for financial support for young people aged 16-19 shortly.

### Sexualisation of Young People Review

**Mr Buckland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the independent review of the excessive commercialisation and premature sexualisation of children will include an assessment of the role of *(a)* schools, *(b)* the retail sector and *(c)* the advertising sector; and if he will make a statement. [44813]

**Sarah Teather:** I have asked Reg Bailey, chief executive of the Mothers' Union, to conduct the independent review of the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood and to report with recommendations in May 2011. As laid out in the ministerial statement to Parliament on 6 December 2010, *Official Report,* column 7WS, and in the terms of reference for the review, Mr Bailey will consider the views of the business community, and in particular the advertising and marketing industry, as well as the views of consumers, especially parents. It will be open to Mr Bailey to consider the role of schools. As part of this considerative process, Mr Bailey has invited industry and other organisations, as well as parents, to submit evidence. He is also meeting representatives from a wide range of businesses and others with an interest, including, for example, the Advertising Standards Authority and the Advertising Association, as well as leading retailers and their representative bodies.

### Sixth Form Colleges: VAT

**Damian Hinds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of sixth form colleges in England are registered for value added tax. [45641]

**Mr Gauke:** I have been asked to reply.

The Secretary of State for Education has asked me to reply as Minister responsible for this area. I refer the hon. Member to my reply to him of 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 96W.

### Sure Start: Bolton

**Yasmin Qureshi:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average administration costs were of Sure Start children's centres in Bolton in the latest period for which figures are available. [44828]

**Sarah Teather:** The Department for Education does not collect data on average administrative costs for children's centres. We have consulted on changes to data which local authorities are required to report on their expenditure on children's services. From 2011-12, local authority expenditure on Sure Start children's centres will be published, including how much funding is held back for local authority central administration costs, and how much is spent on front-line services.

**Yasmin Qureshi:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the level of entitlement funding was in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12 for (i) Bolton South East constituency, (ii) Bolton and (iii) Greater Manchester. [44850]

**Sarah Teather:** The spending review confirmed that all three and four-year-olds will continue to receive 15 hours of free early education per week, delivered more flexibly. Funding for free early education places for three and four-year-olds is provided through the dedicated schools grant (DSG), which supports the majority of education provision for children aged 3-16. Local authorities, in consultation with their Schools Forum, decide how best to distribute 3-16 funding across their locality. As such, funding allocations for local authorities are not available.

Local authorities report on financial expenditure through returns required under section 251 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009. From April 2010, about half of LAs were pathfinders for the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF), a new method for LAs to fund providers of free early education. From April 2011, every LA will be operating the EYSFF. Bolton LA was an EYSFF pathfinder. Where a local authority was a pathfinder for the early years single funding formula in 2010-11, the detail of its formula can be found in its section 251 statement.

Because of the way section 251 operated previously, it is not possible to obtain complete data on free early education spend for non-pathfinders. From section 251 data, Bolton budgeted to spend £8.2 million in 2010-11, and this was allocated through a formula to early years settings. Budget statements for 2011-12 have not yet been completed.

### Targeted Mental Health in Schools Grant: Finance

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department allocated to the Targeted Mental Health in Schools Grant in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [40710]

**Sarah Teather:** Between 2008 and 2011, the Department for Education allocated a total of £60 million to the Targeted Mental Health in Schools (TaMHS) programme.

This was broken down to: £10 million in 2008-09, £20 million in 2009-10 and £30 million in 2010-11.

The aim of the TaMHS programme was to develop innovative models of early intervention and targeted support in schools for children and young people aged 5-13, and their families, who were at risk of and/or experiencing mental health problems by building on existing universal work in schools to promote pupils' social and emotional development.

From April 2011, funding for Targeted Mental Health in Schools (TaMHS) services for children and young people will be available through the new Early Intervention Grant. This non-ring-fenced grant, worth £2.2 billion in

2011-12, will give local areas the freedom and flexibility to invest in early intervention, responding effectively to local need and priority.

### Teachers: Training

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what assessment he has made of the effects of the removal of the further education initial teacher training bursary for *(a)* history and *(b)* information and communication technologies PGCE students; [42178]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of the removal of the bursary for information and communication technologies PGCE students on the number of information and communication technologies teachers in secondary schools in each of the next five years; [42214]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effects of the removal of the further education initial teacher training bursary for history graduates on the number of history teachers in secondary schools in each of the next five years; [42215]

(4) what assessment he has made of the effects of the removal of the further education initial teacher training bursary for history PGCE students on the take-up of history within the English Baccalaureate in each of the next five years; [42216]

(5) what assessment he has made of the effects of the removal of the further education initial teacher training bursary for design and technology PGCE students on the number of design and technology teachers in secondary schools in each of the next five years; [42217]

(6) what assessment he has made of the effects of the removal of the further education initial teacher training bursary for design and technology PGCE students on the number of students taking up vocational subjects in secondary schools; [42218]

(7) what consultations he undertook with *(a)* trade unions, *(b)* head teachers' associations, *(c)* local authorities and *(d)* schools on his decision to remove further education initial teacher training bursaries for (i) information and communication technologies, (ii) history and (iii) design and technology PGCE students in the 2011-12 academic year. [42219]

**Mr Gibb:** The training bursary arrangements for students taking further education PGCEs are a matter for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

### Teenage Pregnancy Independent Advisory Group

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what impact assessment he has undertaken of the abolition of the Independent Advisory Group on Teenage Pregnancy; [24043]

(2) what his most recent assessment is of the effectiveness of the Independent Advisory Group on Teenage Pregnancy in carrying out its functions. [24044]

**Sarah Teather:** The Teenage Pregnancy Independent Advisory Group (TPIAG) was set up in 2000, to monitor the previous Administration's 10-year Teenage Pregnancy Strategy. It is an advisory non-departmental public body (NDPB) whose work was scheduled to come to an end in 2010 and the group has had no responsibility for implementation of the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy. There was, therefore, no need to undertake an impact assessment on its abolition. TPIAG published its final report on 14 December 2010.

While TPIAG was not responsible for the delivery of the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy, it did produce regular reports, with recommendations on how the strategy could be improved. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the group for their reports and recommendations on both preventing teenage pregnancies and improving support for teenage parents and their children. The group's expert input has made an important contribution to the understanding of the measures needed to reduce teenage pregnancies, which have fallen by 18.1% between 1998 and 2009 (the latest year for which data are available), to the point where in 2009, the under-18 conception rate was at its lowest level for nearly 30 years.

In my response of 25 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 95W, to the hon. Member for Stafford (Jeremy Lefroy), I emphasised the importance of local areas continuing to prioritise reducing teenage pregnancy rates. This will contribute to their efforts to reduce child poverty and health inequalities.

### Teenage Pregnancy Scheme: Finance

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department allocated to the Teenage Pregnancy scheme in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [40715]

**Sarah Teather:** The following table sets out the budget allocated to support work on reducing teenage pregnancy rates and improving outcomes for teenage parents and their children, in this and the preceding two years. It separates out the amounts spent on: local implementation (paid through a grant to each top-tier local authority in England); and the amount retained by the Teenage Pregnancy Unit (TPU) to pay for the elements of the strategy that were best managed centrally, such as funding for a national media campaign and for the national PSHE continuing professional development (CPD) programme for teachers.

*£ million*

| *Financial year* | *Local implementation* | *Central costs* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 27.5 | 5.5 | 33 |
| 2009-10 | 27.5 | 5.5 | 33 |
| 2010-11 | 27.5 | 5.5 | 33 |

### Teenage Pregnancy: Personal Income

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment his Department has made of potential links between income inequality and rates of *(a)* teenage births and *(b)* teenage pregnancy. [44263]

**Sarah Teather:** Analysis of the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England (LSYPE) shows that young women from less well off backgrounds are more likely to have been pregnant and, in particular, more likely to have become mothers, by the age of 18 than those from more affluent backgrounds. The survey found that while 13% of females interviewed were eligible for free school meals in Year 11, this group made up 22% of those who became pregnant by age 18, and 32% of those whose first pregnancy resulted in them having the baby. Females with parents from higher or lower professional occupational backgrounds made up 45% of the survey population at age 18, but only 28% of those who became pregnant by the age of 18 and an even smaller proportion, 12%, of those who went on to have a baby.

Rates of both teenage pregnancy and teenage motherhood are higher in areas with higher levels of deprivation. Teenage pregnancy rates in the 10% most deprived wards are four times higher than in the 10% least deprived. This association is even stronger when it comes to teenage motherhood, where the rate of births to under-18s in the most deprived 10% of wards is nine times higher than in the 10% least deprived. High rates of teenage pregnancy are mainly concentrated in deprived urban areas. However, teenage pregnancy "hotspots" (wards with rates over 60 under-18 conceptions per 1,000 females aged 15-17) are found in virtually every local authority in England, including in some rural areas.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to reply to question 24438, on funding for family rights helplines, tabled on 13 November for ordinary written answer. [29615]

**Sarah Teather:** A response has been issued to the hon. Member today.

### Young People: Alcoholic Drinks

**Nick Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to raise awareness of the problems of under-age excess drinking through the Youth Service. [39886]

**Sarah Teather:** The national Drug Strategy published in December 2010, set out Government's ambition for preventing drug and alcohol misuse among young people. In it, we committed to ensure that school staff have the information, advice and the power to provide accurate information on drugs and alcohol through drug education and targeted information via the FRANK service; to tackle problem behaviour in schools, with wider powers of search and confiscation; and to work with local voluntary organisations, the police and others to prevent drug or alcohol misuse. We will make sure that other professionals working with young people also have access to the information they need to raise awareness of these issues.

Furthermore, through the Early Intervention Grant we are giving local authorities in England more freedoms and flexibilities to maintain and focus on essential frontline services and to invest in early intervention and prevention to protect the most vulnerable, including those young people at risk of substance misuse.

### Young People: Unemployment

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of young people aged *(a)* 16, *(b)* 17 and *(c)* 18 were not in full-time education or training in each local education authority area in the east of England in the latest period for which figures are available. [44929]

**Mr Gibb:** Estimates of participation in education and work-based learning (WBL) for young people in each local authority (LA) in England are published by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June. The full set of local estimates can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000938/index.shtml

The following table shows, for local authorities in the east of England: estimates for the number of young people participating in full-time education and WBL; population estimates; and estimates for the number and proportion of young people not in full-time education or WBL. Estimates relate to a snapshot at the end of 2008, and are shown for young people of academic age 16 and 17. Figures for 18-year-olds are not available.

*Participation in full-time education (FT Ed) or work-based learning (WBL) at academic age 16 and 17 for local authorities in the east of England*

| | Academic age 16 | | | | Academic age 17 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *In FT Ed/WBL* | *Population* | *Not in FT Ed/WBL* | *Proportion not in FT Ed/WBL* | *In FT Ed/WBL* | *Population* | *Not in FT Ed/WBL* | *Proportion not in FT Ed/WBL* |
| | *Number* | *Number* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Number* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| Bedford[1] | [1]2,100 | [1]2,100 | [1]0 | [1]0 | 1,800 | 2,100 | 300 | 13 |
| Cambridgeshire | 6,500 | 7,400 | 900 | 12 | 5,900 | 7,700 | 1,700 | 23 |
| Central Bedfordshire | 2,800 | 3,300 | 500 | 16 | 2,400 | 3,400 | 1,000 | 30 |
| Essex | 14,900 | 17,900 | 3,000 | 17 | 12,900 | 18,300 | 5,400 | 30 |
| Hertfordshire | 13,400 | 14,500 | 1,000 | 7 | 11,900 | 14,500 | 2,600 | 18 |
| Luton | 2,300 | 2,500 | 200 | 7 | 2,000 | 2,700 | 600 | 23 |
| Norfolk | 8,500 | 9,900 | 1,400 | 14 | 7,100 | 10,100 | 3,000 | 30 |
| Peterborough | 1,800 | 2,100 | 300 | 12 | 1,600 | 2,300 | 700 | 31 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 1,800 | 2,100 | 200 | 12 | 1,500 | 2,100 | 500 | 26 |
| Suffolk | 7,700 | 9,000 | 1,400 | 15 | 6,700 | 9,300 | 2,500 | 27 |
| Thurrock | 1,600 | 1,900 | 300 | 17 | 1,300 | 2,100 | 800 | 38 |
| East of England | 63,500 | 72,700 | 9,200 | 13 | 55,200 | 74,500 | 19,300 | 26 |

*Participation in full-time education (FT Ed) or work-based learning (WBL) at academic age 16 and 17 for local authorities in the east of England*

| | Academic age 16 | | | | Academic age 17 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | In FT Ed/WBL | Population | Not in FT Ed/WBL | Proportion not in FT Ed/WBL | In FT Ed/WBL | Population | Not in FT Ed/WBL | Proportion not in FT Ed/WBL |
| | Number | Number | Number | Percentage | Number | Number | Number | Percentage |
| England | 577,700 | 659,400 | 81,700 | 12 | 511,600 | 677,300 | 165,700 | 24 |

[1] Note that in some cases estimates of participation at LA level can equal or exceed 100%. This is because for participants in independent schools, where residence data on pupils are not collected, an assumption is made that the young people live in the LA that the school is located. This will tend to inflate participation estimates for LAs with both an untypically high number of independent schools and where cross border flows between LAs are common (such as Inner London). Bedford is one of the LAs whose estimates at age 16 are suppressed in the published participation figures (which include part-time education) because the estimate of overall participation exceeds 100%.

*Note*:

Numbers are rounded to the nearest 100.

## HEALTH

### Autism

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress his Department has made in producing a protocol for the recording and sharing of information on adults with autism; and if he will make a statement. [46772]

**Paul Burstow:** The published document, "Implementing 'Fulfilling and rewarding Lives': Consultation for statutory guidance for local authorities and NHS organisations to support the implementation of the autism strategy", December 2010, set out clear local authority responsibilities for ensuring that correct processes are put in place for conducting assessments of needs and for the prompt sharing of information of adults with autism.

The Department will lead the development of an agreed protocol for what information should be recorded and how it should be shared with other services. This protocol will also look at how information about numbers of adults with autism locally should be compiled and fed into centrally collated data about rates of autism.

A copy of the guidance has already been placed in the Library.

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons people with autism are not included in the draft social care outcomes framework; whether he plans to address social care outcomes for people with autism; and if he will make a statement. [47065]

**Paul Burstow:** The adult social care outcomes framework is intended to provide an overarching picture of social care at the national level, reflecting the common outcomes which matter to people receiving services and their carers. Outcome measures are not intended to focus on any one disability exclusively, but reflect more holistic outcomes as far as possible to give a broader overview, with more detailed information available for further analysis. Outcomes for people with autism should be included in the framework to the extent that these high-level measures are relevant for autism.

The 2011-12 adult social care outcomes framework is based upon existing national data collections, since changes to data requirements cannot be made in the short-term. Data on autism are not currently collected from councils at the national level, hence this information is not disaggregable from current proposals. However, we are exploring means of addressing the availability of information on specific disabilities, including autism, through data development with the local government sector.

The final 2011-12 adult social care outcomes framework will be published by the Government shortly.

### Cataracts: Surgery

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to take steps to increase the number of patients who are able to choose implantable lens technology on the NHS for the treatment of cataracts under his proposals for the reform of NHS commissioning. [46761]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Currently primary care trusts are able to commission eye care services as they judge them to be needed in their areas.

The Health and Social Care Bill currently before the House sets out our proposals to devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services to local consortia of general practitioner (GP) practices, supported by the creation of the NHS Commissioning Board.

Subject to parliamentary approval, GP consortia will be responsible for commissioning the vast majority of national health service services including those for patients with cataracts. GP consortia will be responsible for managing their own commissioning budgets, and using these resources for commissioning services to achieve the best and most cost-efficient outcomes for patients. The NHS Commissioning Board will hold them to account for the quality of their commissioning.

### Contraception: Expenditure

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department and the NHS spent on contraceptive *(a)* services and *(b)* provision through primary care in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [46773]

**Anne Milton:** Information on national health service spending on contraceptive services through primary care is not collected by the Department.

The NHS Information Centre collects some information on spending on contraception provision in primary care. The latest 12-month period available covers October 2009 to September 2010. Contraceptives are listed in the British National Formulary under section 7.3 and Prescription Services classify contraceptive appliances (such as intra-uterine contraceptive devices) under 21.4. The following figure covers all products in these sections except for ovulation thermometers.

Expenditure (net ingredient cost) on prescriptions for contraception, dispensed in the community in England, year ending 30 September 2010, was £91,992,499.

Contraceptives can also be supplied without a prescription either through contraceptive and sexual health clinics, or by pharmacists under a Patient Group Direction. Condoms are not provided on prescription but can be supplied by the NHS via other routes. Expenditure on these items is not included in the figure above.

*Notes:*

1. *Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) Data*

Prescription information is taken from the PCA system, supplied by the Prescription Services Division of the NHS Business Services Authority, and is based on a full analysis of all prescriptions dispensed in the community, i.e. by community pharmacists and appliance contractors, dispensing doctors, and prescriptions submitted by prescribing doctors for items personally administered in England. Also included are prescriptions written in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man but dispensed in England. The data do not cover drugs dispensed in hospitals, including mental health trusts, or private prescriptions.

2. Prescribers are general practitioners, hospital doctors, dentists and non-medical prescribers such as nurses and pharmacists.

3. *Net Ingredient Cost (NIC)*

NIC is the basic cost of a drug. It does not take account of discounts, dispensing costs, fees or prescription charges income.

### Cord Blood

**Lilian Greenwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will visit the Anthony Nolan cord blood bank in Nottingham South constituency to discuss an increase in the UK stock of umbilical cord blood. [47357]

**Anne Milton:** The Secretary of State for Health, the right hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), has not yet received an invitation to visit the Anthony Nolan cord bank in Nottingham. As the Minister with responsibility for NHS stem cell transplantation services, both cord blood and bone marrow, I would be happy to visit this facility in the future when my diary permits.

The Government remain committed to this work and I have personally met with members of the UK Stem Cell Strategic Forum, including the Anthony Nolan, to drive forward work to make current services more effective and efficient. As further proof of this commitment, I announced an additional £4 million towards improving the provision of these life-saving therapies in the national health service.

### Dental Services: East of England

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of practising dentists in each county in the east of England are taking on new NHS patients. [47027]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The information requested is not centrally held. The hon. Member may wish to approach the east of England strategic health authority for local information.

### Dental Services: Manpower

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists are operating under *(a)* general dental services contracts and *(b)* personal dental services agreements in (i) Suffolk, (ii) Bedfordshire, (iii) Cambridgeshire, (iv) Essex, (v) Hertfordshire, (vi) Norfolk and (vii) England. [46917]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The numbers of dentists with national health service activity, by contract type, during the year ending 31 March 2010 are available in Table G2 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2009-10" report.

Information is provided for England and by strategic health authority and primary care trust. This information is based on the dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. This report, published on 18 August 2010, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0910

Following a consultation exercise in 2008, this measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes any previously published workforce figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. This revised methodology counts the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March. This revised methodology applies to data published from 2008 onwards and includes 2007 revised data. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements.

These published figures relate to a headcount and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists; nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

### Departmental Rail Travel

**Mr Godsiff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of civil servants in his Department are entitled to travel first class by rail within the UK. [47071]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department's current travel and expenses policy allows staff to travel first class by rail only if there is a business need for them to do so. Staff at senior executive officer (SEO) level and above may travel first class without separate approval.

Latest data submitted by the Department to the Office of National Statistics as at 31 December 2010 show that there were 2,656 civil servants in the Department. 1,604 of these were employed at SEO level or above; that is, 60% of the Department's workforce.

All staff have a responsibility to consider at the outset whether they have a definite need related to their work to travel first class by rail. Where air travel is cheaper than rail travel, officials are encouraged to obtain economy class air tickets from the Department's travel contractor.

The Department is implementing a new travel and expenses policy guidance for staff in April 2011 which reflect latest Treasury principles and the Government's efficiency measures, announced in May 2010, to reduce first class travel.

### Regulation

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what regulations his Department introduced between 9 and 28 February 2011; [47049]

(2) what regulations his Department revoked between 9 and 28 February 2011. [47060]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The information requested is in the following tables.

*Statutory instruments introduced before Parliament for the period 9 February 2011 to 28 February 2011*

| *SI title* | *Made* | *Laid* | *Coming into force* | *SI number* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| The North West London Hospitals National Health Service Trust (Transfer of Trust Property) Order 2011 | 5 February 2011 | 9 February 2011 | 1 April 2011 | 2011/238 |
| The Buckinghamshire Primary Care Trust (Transfer of Trust Property) Order 2011 | 7 February 2011 | 11 February 2011 | 1 April 2011 | 2011/253 |
| The Food Additives (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 | 7 February 2011 | 11 February 2011 | 31 March 2011 | 2011/258 |
| The National Health Service (Quality Accounts) Amendment Regulations 2011 | 8 February 2011 | 11 February 2011 | 1 April 2011 | 2011/269 |
| The Food Labelling (Declaration of Allergens) (England) Regulations 2011 | 11 February 2011 | 17 February 2011 | 17 March 2011 | 2011/402 |
| The Healthy Start Scheme and Welfare Food (Amendment) Regulations 2011 | 14 February 2011 | 17 February 2011 | 6 April 2011 | 2011/426 |
| The National Health Service (Functions of Strategic Health Authorities and Primary Care Trusts and Administration Arrangements) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 | 23 February 2011 | 28 February 2011 | 1 April 2011 | 2011/503 |

*Statutory instruments revoked between 9 February 2010 and 28 February 2011*

| *SI revoked* | *By SI* | *Made* | *Laid* | *Coming into force* | *SI number* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| The Food Labelling (Declaration of Allergens) (England) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/2801) | The Food Labelling (Declaration of Allergens) (England) Regulations 2011 | 11 February 2011 | 17 February 2011 | 17 March 2011 | 2011/402 |

## General Practitioners

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* GP surgeries and *(b)* single-handed GP surgeries there were in (i) Suffolk, (ii) Bedfordshire, (iii) Cambridgeshire, (iv) Essex, (v) Hertfordshire, (vi) Norfolk and (vii) England in each year since 1997. [46916]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The information requested is not available in the format requested. However, information is available by strategic health authority (SHA)/primary care trust (PCT) area.

Table 1 includes information relating to the number of general practitioner (GP) practices in the former SHAs and PCTs in the east of England area covering the period from September 2001 to September 2005, and the number of GP practices for the reconfigured SHA and PCT areas for 2006 to 2009.

Table 2 is the number of single-handed practices in the same area over the same period. For data collection purposes, single-handed GP practices are defined as those who do not employ a salaried GP but may be assisted by a GP registrar or GP retainer.

Table 3 provides information on the number of single-handed providers from 1997 to 2005 but where a single-handed provider is defined as one which may also include a salaried GP, GP registrar or GP trainee. Therefore, this information is not comparable to the information in table 2.

Copies of these tables have been placed in the Library.

Information on the number of single-handed providers in England from 1999 to 2009 is available in the workforce census bulletin "General and Personal Medical Services 1999 to 2009 (second edition)" published by the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care. A copy of the bulletin can be found at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/publications/010_Workforce/nhsstaff9909/GP/General%20Practice%20%20Bulletin%20Tables%201999%20-%202009.pdf

**Mr Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the merits and demerits of requiring patients to make appointments with GPs through call centres; and if he will make a statement. [47368]

**Mr Simon Burns:** None. General practitioners (GPs) practices are responsible, as independent contractors to the national health service, for ensuring their patients can make appointments to obtain the care they need from general practice. In making such decisions, GPs will want to secure both the best and most effective arrangements for their patients and for the practice. There are no requirements for practices to move to call centres for appointment-based bookings.

## General Practitioners: Working Hours

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average distance travelled for an out-of-hours GP appointment was in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Bedfordshire, *(c)* Cambridgeshire, *(d)* Essex, *(e)* Hertfordshire and *(f)* Norfolk in each of the last 10 years; and what the average waiting time for an out-of-hours GP appointment was in (i) Suffolk, (ii) Bedfordshire, (iii) Cambridgeshire, (iv) Essex, (v) Hertfordshire and (vi) Norfolk in each of the last 10 years. [47029]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The information requested is not centrally held. The hon. Member may wish to approach the relevant primary care trusts within the east of England region for local information.

## Health Services

**Bill Esterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the expenditure by *(a)* Sefton primary care trust and *(b)* other primary care trusts of the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies grant in the latest period for which figures are available. [47278]

**Paul Burstow:** Sefton primary care trust (PCT) received a total of £1.081 million in funding for Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) in 2010-11. This was comprised of £608,000 in their baseline as their weighted capitation share of £103 million shared between all PCTs for the IAPT programme, and a direct allocation of a further £473,000 from the £70 million growth funding allocated to individual PCTs by their strategic health authorities (SHAs) as part of this programme in 2010-11.

Sefton started its IAPT service in October 2010. In its first quarter, between 1 October and 31 December 2010, this service saw 1,228 patients entering treatment, of which 679 completed it. Another 117 patients moved to recovery with many others showing significant improvement in their symptoms and still being in treatment at the end of this period. Seven of the people treated in this three months came off sick pay or benefits.

Total funding provided nationally for the IAPT programme in 2010-11 was £173 million. This comprised £103 million shared between all PCTs' baselines on a weighted capitation basis. The £70 million growth money for 2010-11 was shared between SHAs on a weighted capitation basis and allocated by them to PCTs in their region, in the light of local circumstances and decisions to start new services. Some PCTs have chosen to add funding to their allocations in order to enhance their local services and others have struggled to find the full amount in their baselines but the detail of this is not held centrally.

Across the country in the quarter between October and December 2010, 91,527 people entered IAPT treatment, 64,230 completed it, 22,369 moved to recovery with many more showing significant improvement in their symptoms and remaining in treatment across the end of this period. A total of 4,238 people treated came off sick pay or benefits.

## Health Services: East of England

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by *(a)* West Suffolk Hospital NHS Trust and *(b)* Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust on salaries and wages for (i) general and senior managers, (ii) nurses and midwives, and (iii) administrative and clerical staff in each year since 2009-10. [46936]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Expenditure on managers and senior managers, nursing and midwifery and administrative and clerical staff costs by West Suffolk Hospital NHS Trust and Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust in 2009-10 is shown in the following table:

*£000*

| | *Managers and senior managers* | *Nursing and midwifery* | *Administrative and clerical* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust | 4,764 | 40,412 | 16,464 |
| West Suffolk Hospital NHS Trust | 4,382 | 34,929 | 10,809 |

*Notes:*

1. 2009-10 is the most recent financial year for which figures are available.

2. The data are taken from the Financial Returns. The Financial Returns are a means for the national health service to provide planning and costing information to the Department, and these essentially provide a more detailed breakdown of individual expenditure lines reported in the audited summarisation schedules. The Financial Returns data are not audited, but are instead validated by reference to the audited summarisation schedules from which the NHS Summarised Accounts are prepared. There are a number of factors which may distort the figures and they may contain errors and omissions at an individual level (mainly as a result of classification errors) which are not material at the national level.

*Source:*

NHS Financial Returns, Department of Health

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* Suffolk Primary Care Trust and *(b)* the East of England Strategic Health Authority spent on (i) management and (ii) other consultants in each of the last five years. [47031]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Expenditure on consultancy services by Suffolk Primary Care Trust and East of England Strategic Health Authority for the financial years 2007-08 to 2009-10 is shown in the following table:

*£000*

| | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Suffolk Primary Care Trust | 387 | 3,062 | 878 |
| East of England Strategic Health Authority | 0 | 3,446 | 6,370 |

*Note:*

2007-08 was the first year that expenditure on consultancy services was separately identified in the audited summarisation schedules. It is not possible to disaggregate the amounts spent on management and other consultants from these figures.

*Source:*

Audited Summarisation Schedules 2007-08 to 2009-10, Department of Health

## Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many residents of each *(a)* EU member state and *(b)* non-EU country were treated by the NHS in each of the last five years; and what the cost to the public purse was of such treatment in each such year. [47008]

**Anne Milton:** Under European Union Regulations 883/2004 and 987/2009, the United Kingdom is able to claim full reimbursement for the cost of treatment provided in the UK to residents of another European Economic Area member state or Switzerland. Separately, the UK has bilateral health care agreements with a small number of non-EU countries, which entitle nationals or residents of those countries to free national health service hospital treatment when the need for it arises during their visit to the UK. Residents of other countries are not usually entitled to free NHS treatment and will be charged.

The following table shows the total audited losses, bad debt and claims abandoned for overseas visitors for years 2005-06 to 2009-10, for England. As well as written off debt for foreign nationals, including EEA and Swiss nationals, who are not ordinarily resident in the UK or exempt from charges, these data include written off debt for UK nationals who are not ordinarily resident here. Further, the data do not include monies owed that hospitals are still in the process of recovering.

*Bad debts and claims abandoned in respect of overseas patients*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 3,883,017 |
| 2006-07 | 5,046,763 |
| 2007-08 | 6,468,751 |
| 2008-09 | 5,204,856 |
| 2009-10 | 6,967,780 |

### Insulin

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has plans to bring forward proposals to increase access to insulin pumps for people with Type 1 diabetes. [46762]

**Paul Burstow:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines along with international evidence are clear on usage and benefits of these devices.

Dr Rowan Hillson, the National Clinical Director for Diabetes is currently chairing a working group considering the steps that need to be taken to increase uptake of insulin pumps. "The NHS Operating Framework for 2011/12" also highlights the need to do more to make these devices available.

In addition, the NHS Technology Adoption Centre has published guidance for the national health service to help drive the uptake of these devices in line with the guidelines provided by NICE.

### Mental Illness: Ex-servicemen

**Hazel Blears:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much funding his Department provided to Timebank for its Shoulder to Shoulder programme in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008, *(c)* 2009 and *(d)* 2010; [46881]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on the NHS budget of the Timebank Shoulder to Shoulder programme. [46996]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Shoulder to Shoulder project is a partnership between Timebank and Combat Stress, funded by the Department with the aim of providing mentors to young service leavers to aid their transition into civilian life. The project began just over a month ago, and any evaluation would be premature.

The funding available is shown in the following table:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2010-11 | 48,829 |
| 2011-12 | 58,147 |
| 2012-13 | 57,927 |

### NHS: Information and Communications Technology

**Mr Bacon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many delay event notices in the National Programme for IT in the Health Service have been issued by *(a)* Connecting for Health *(b)* other NHS bodies and *(c)* BT in relation to the Cerner deployment at North Bristol NHS Trust; and what the value is in each case. [46805]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Under National Programme for Information Technology Local Service Provider (LSP) contracts, LSPs, but not the Department, nor national health service organisations, are obliged to issue a delay event notice (DEN) when they anticipate being unlikely to achieve a contractual milestone on time. The duty to issue a DEN is the LSP's, whether or not the LSP is responsible for the event concerned.

Only one DEN has been issued in relation to the Cerner deployment at the North Bristol NHS Trusts. It was issued by BT on 16 September 2010, citing two delay events requested by the trust. BT has not to date associated any cost with the DEN.

### NHS: Negligence

**Paul Uppal:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take under his NHS reforms to ensure redress for patients who suffer injury as a result of negligent medical treatment in an NHS hospital; and if he will take steps to ensure that such rights of redress are no less than those that would apply to a patient suffering injury in a privately-run hospital. [46684]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The standard national health service contracts already place a requirement on providers of NHS care to have appropriate indemnity arrangements in place.

Patients still have the right to make a claim where they have been negligently harmed, regardless of the who the provider of care was.

### NHS: Per Capita Costs

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total public expenditure per head of population was on *(a)* capital and *(b)* running costs of the NHS in (i) Suffolk, (ii) Bedfordshire, (iii) Cambridgeshire, (iv) Essex, (v) Hertfordshire, (vi) Norfolk and (vii) each of the English regions in each year since 1997. [47025]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department does not collect any information for the national health service by either county or English region.

Information on running costs is not available centrally.

Total capital expenditure by strategic health authorities (SHAs), primary care trusts (PCTs) and NHS trusts per head of population, summarised by SHA area, is shown in the following table. The East of England SHA, and its predecessors, covers the six counties referred to in this question.

£

| | | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *East of England strategic health authority area* | | | | | | | |
| Q01 | Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Strategic Health Authority | 46.8 | 33.5 | 24.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Q02 | Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Strategic Health Authority | 34.8 | 21.0 | 22.6 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Q03 | Essex Strategic Health Authority | 49.9 | 41.8 | 57.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Q35 | North West London Strategic Health Authority | n/a | n/a | n/a | 17.63 | 22.14 | 24.73 | 36.53 |
| | *Other Strategic Health Authority areas* | | | | | | | |
| Q04 | North West London Strategic Health Authority | 76.0 | 60.3 | 62.4 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Q05 | North Central London Strategic Health Authority | 54.1 | 57.2 | 16.6 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Q06 | North East London Strategic Health Authority | 66.9 | 57.1 | 62.1 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Q07 | South East London Strategic Health Authority | 51.6 | 51.0 | 45.0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Q08 | South West London Strategic Health Authority | 55.6 | 41.2 | 23.4 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Q09 | Northumberland, Tyne And Wear Strategic Health Authority | 60.4 | 43.8 | 49.9 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Q10 | County Durham and Tees Valley Strategic Health Authority | 34.7 | 35.3 | 46.1 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Q11 | North and East Yorkshire and North Lincs Strategic Health Authority | 40.5 | 36.9 | 53.1 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Q12 | West Yorkshire Strategic Health Authority | 44.5 | 33.4 | 36.4 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Q13 | Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic Health Authority | 46.5 | 47.2 | 34.5 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Q14 | Greater Manchester Strategic Health Authority | 44.6 | 35.7 | 45.4 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Q15 | Chester and Merseyside Strategic Health Authority | 54.5 | 57.0 | 56.9 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Q16 | Thames Valley Strategic Health Authority | 35.3 | 35.3 | 26.6 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Q17 | Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Health Authority | 49.6 | 55.8 | 39.6 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Q18 | Kent and Medway Strategic Health Authority | 31.8 | 39.1 | 46.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Q19 | Surrey and Sussex Strategic Health Authority | 45.9 | 45.0 | 22.9 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Q20 | Avon, Gloucester and Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority | 30.8 | 28.4 | 30.7 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 021 | South West Peninsula Strategic Health Authority | 54.5 | 30.8 | 44.9 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Q22 | Dorset and Somerset Strategic Health Authority | 35.6 | 40.9 | 62.8 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Q23 | South Yorkshire Strategic Health Authority | 53.1 | 25.0 | 14.3 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Q24 | Trent Strategic Health Authority | 43.2 | 37.9 | 19.1 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Q25 | Leics, Northants and Rutland Strategic Health Authority | 41.8 | 45.9 | 44.0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Q26 | Shropshire and Staffordshire Strategic Health Authority | 45.8 | 35.8 | 37.5 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Q27 | Birmingham and the Black Country Strategic Health Authority | 74.8 | 56.5 | 23.6 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Q28 | West Midlands South Strategic Health Authority | 39.8 | 35.7 | 32.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Q30 | North East Strategic Health Authority | n/a | n/a | n/a | 44.52 | 13.54 | 37.59 | 31.72 |
| Q31 | North West Strategic Health Authority | n/a | n/a | n/a | 52.90 | 42.61 | 30.88 | 61.37 |
| Q32 | Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority | n/a | n/a | n/a | 36.46 | 29.88 | 31.36 | 50.13 |
| Q33 | East Midlands Strategic Health Authority | n/a | n/a | n/a | 38.23 | 37.63 | 41.93 | 53.53 |
| Q34 | West Midlands Strategic Health Authority | n/a | n/a | n/a | 33.41 | 34.76 | 34.43 | 47.70 |
| Q35 | London Strategic Health Authority | n/a | n/a | n/a | 28.99 | 47.22 | 54.36 | 89.97 |
| Q36 | South East Coast Strategic Health Authority | n/a | n/a | n/a | 35.13 | 42.05 | 35.54 | 41.36 |
| Q37 | South Central Strategic Health Authority | n/a | n/a | n/a | 57.74 | 40.30 | 46.42 | 109.13 |
| Q38 | South West Strategic Health Authority | n/a | n/a | n/a | 41.04 | 37.44 | 42.10 | 44.15 |

*Notes*:

1. Expenditure data used in the calculation of capital expenditure per capita values are taken from the audited summarisation schedules of NHS bodies, 2003-04 to 2009-10.

2. In accordance with HM Treasury guidance, expenditure was accounted for using UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice the financial years 2003-04 to 2008-09; expenditure for 2009-10 was accounted for using International Financial Reporting Standards.

3. 'n/a' indicates that the organisation did not exist in the financial year.

## Organs: Donors

**Sheryll Murray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department is taking steps to reduce regional variations in the number of people on the NHS Organ Donor Register; and if he will make a statement. [46861]

**Anne Milton:** NHS Blood and Transplant works in partnership with the national health service, local authorities, commercial and third sector organisations to support local promotional and awareness-raising activity around the country. Everyone in the United Kingdom can register via national initiatives such as joining the Organ Donor Register when registering with a doctor or applying for a driving licence.

People of Asian and African-Caribbean descent are three to four times more likely than white people to develop renal failure and need a kidney transplant. Yet there are far fewer donors from these communities. That is why NHS Blood and Transplant undertakes a number of specific initiatives targeted at these communities working with specific faith organisations, advertising on black and Asian television channels, radio stations and newspapers or through social media, to raise awareness about the benefits of organ donation, and to encourage more people to add their name to the Organ Donor Register.

**Sheryll Murray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of 16 to 20-year-olds are on the NHS Organ Donor Register. [46864]

**Anne Milton:** As at 10 March 2011, 22% or 888,100 people aged 16-20 years (inclusive) in the United Kingdom were on the Organ Donor Register.

## Patients: Accidents

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the proportion of accidental falls suffered by patients in NHS facilities which are the result of poor vision; and if he will make a statement. [46757]

**Mr Simon Burns:** This information is not held centrally.

There are a number of initiatives that encourage staff to check for visual problems in hospital patients who are at high risk of falls. These include the National Patient Safety Agency's "Slips trips and falls in hospital" and Patient Safety First's "How to" guide for reducing harm from falls. The documents can be found at:

www.nrls.npsa.nhs.uk/resources/patient-safety-topics/patient-accidents-falls/?entryid45=59821

and

www.patientsafetyfirst.nhs.uk/ashx/Asset.ashx?path=/Intervention-support/FALLSHow-to%20Guide%20v4.pdf

respectively.

Research on falls prevention recognises impaired vision as an important contributing factor to falls, usually in combination with other risk factors such as balance problems or muscle weakness rather than in isolation, and that identifying and treating cataract reduces the risk of further falls. United Kingdom research has indicated around 45% of patients admitted with hip fracture have vision impairment, as do around 50% of patients admitted to elderly medicine wards. The research review document can be found at:

www.cochranejournalclub.com/preventing-falls-in-nursing-care-facilities-and-hospitals/pdf/CD007146_standard.pdf

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what costs have been incurred by the NHS in each region as a result of *(a)* treatment for and *(b)* payments to patients who have suffered accidental falls in NHS facilities; and if he will make a statement. [46804]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Data on costs of treatment to patients who have suffered accidental falls are not held by either the Department or the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA).

In respect of payments to patients, it is not possible to separate falls which involve patients as opposed to visitors. Therefore the information provided is for claims involving falls made against members of the NHSLA schemes.

Information on claims involving falls made against members of the NHSLA schemes:

| *Strategic health authority* | *Total paid (£)* |
|---|---:|
| East Midlands | 1,179,086 |
| East of England | 1,990,870 |
| London | 5,088,975 |
| North East | 1,608,316 |
| North West | 5,399,399 |
| South Central | 1,144,180 |
| South East Coast | 2,016,164 |
| South West | 2,063,236 |
| West Midlands | 3,103,023 |
| Yorkshire and The Humber | 2,668,680 |
| Total | 26,261,929 |

*Source:*
NHS Litigation Authority March 2011.

We have used data from April 1999 which was when the NHSLA introduced the Liabilities to Third Party scheme.

These claims are subject to excesses, with member bodies responsible for handling and funding below-excess claims themselves. They can, however, ask the NHSLA to handle these claims for them for a handling fee.

## Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the merits of extending the range of conditions which qualify parents for prescription charge exemptions. [46755]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Government announced in the spending review that to ensure spending in the national health service is focused on priorities, some programmes announced by the previous Government but not yet implemented will not be taken forward. This includes extending free prescriptions to all those with long-term conditions. We are continuing to explore options for reforming the current prescription charging arrangements, taking into account the financial context. In particular, we are examining the implications of the introduction of universal credit in relation to those current benefits that entitle the recipient of that benefit to free prescriptions. We are also looking at the implications of state pension age changes. We will make announcements about how these changes will be implemented in due course.

### Suffolk Primary Care Trust: Pay

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much Suffolk Primary Care Trust spent on salaries and wages for *(a)* general and senior managers, *(b)* nurses and midwives, and *(c)* administrative and clerical staff in each year since 2009-10. [46937]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Expenditure on managers and senior managers, nursing and midwifery and administrative and clerical staff costs by Suffolk Primary Care Trust in 2009-10 is shown in the following table:

| | *2009-10 (£000)* |
|---|---|
| Managers and senior managers | 11,646 |
| Nursing and midwifery | 25,712 |
| Administrative and clerical | 7,411 |

*Notes*:
1. 2009-10 is the most recent financial year for which figures are available.
2. The data are taken from the Financial Returns. The Financial Returns are a means for the national health service to provide planning and costing information to the Department, and these essentially provide a more detailed breakdown of individual expenditure lines reported in the audited summarisation schedules. The Financial Returns data are not audited, but are instead validated by reference to the audited summarisation schedules from which the NHS Summarised Accounts are prepared. There are a number of factors which may distort the figures and they may contain errors and omissions at an individual level (mainly as a result of classification errors) which are not material at the national level.

*Source*:
NHS Financial Returns, Department of Health

### Third Sector

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department are participating in volunteering activities as part of his Department's involvement in the big society initiative. [42660]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department's Ministers are actively involved with charities on a private basis as detailed in the list of Ministers' interests recently published by the Cabinet Office, and in addition are involved in other local voluntary and community activities in our constituencies.

### Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006

**Mr Raab:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to use the provisions of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 to transfer employees of primary care trusts to local GP consortia. [47404]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Subject to the circumstances in each case, the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations may apply to primary care trust staff transferring to general practitioner commissioning consortia.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Departmental Land

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps to reduce the size of his Department's estate; and if he will make a statement. [46745]

**Mr Duncan:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer provided by the Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the hon. Member for Kingston and Surbiton (Mr Davey) on 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 150W.

In the meantime, officials from the Department for International Development (DFID) are already in discussion with the Government Property Unit on possible opportunities to reduce our estate.

### Regulation

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what regulations his Department revoked between 27 January 2011 and 28 February 2011; [47032]

(2) what regulations his Department introduced between 9 and 28 February 2011. [47043]

**Mr Duncan:** The Secretary of State for International Development has not introduced any regulations since 9 February 2011 and is not responsible for any regulations that are currently in force.

### Developing Countries: Business

**Ms Harman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on programmes where businesses participate in corporate social responsibility initiatives in developing countries in the latest period for which figures are available. [46733]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Department for International Development's (DFID's) support for corporate social responsibility (CSR) is incorporated into our broader work on responsible business practices. Interventions include activities that promote increased corporate engagement and investment that demonstrably contribute to poverty reduction and support growth in developing countries.

We do not have centralised information on DFID's spend in this area across our country offices. Central funding from the Department in 2009-10 on projects that supported responsible business comprised:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Business Call to Action | 258,361.81 |
| Business Innovation Facility | 167,700.00 |
| The Food Retail Challenge Fund | 108,074.65 |
| Responsible and Accountable Garments Sector Challenge Fund | 13,599.20 |
| Programme Partnership Arrangement with the Ethical Trading Initiative | 530,000.00 |
| Accountable Grant with Fairtrade Labelling Organisations International | 500,000.00 |

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises | 115,000.00 |

### Developing Countries: Social Protection

**Craig Whittaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department has provided to World Bank social protection programmes in each of the last three years. [46299]

**Mr Duncan:** In response to the global food, fuel and financial crises in 2009, the Department for International Development (DFID) has been providing support through the World Bank to help developing countries and the poorest in those countries that are vulnerable to shocks. Between 2009-10 and 2010-11 DFID has provided £2 million to the World Bank's Rapid Social Response Multi-Donor Programme which supports strengthening of social protection systems in developing countries. DFID has also provided £200 million over the same period to enable the setting up of a "Crisis Response Window" (CRW) that is supporting low income countries affected by the crises. CRW funds have supported initiatives such as a labour-intensive works programme in Yemen and a food and basic needs programme for vulnerable households in Nepal.

In addition to these centrally supported initiatives, DFID country-level work on social protection is often implemented in partnership with the World Bank. For example, over the last three years, DFID has provided nearly £2 million through the World Bank in Pakistan to support the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) to deliver better targeted cash transfers to the ultra-poor in the country, reaching over 2.5 million families.

**Craig Whittaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department expects to have spent on social protection in 2010-11; and what budgetary allocation has been made for 2011-12. [46300]

**Mr Duncan:** The Department for International Development expects to have spent £78.9 million on social protection in 2010-11. Budgetary allocations for 2011-12 are still being agreed to deliver the commitments made following the recent bilateral and multilateral aid reviews.

**Craig Whittaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department is taking steps to support the development of social protection systems in developing countries to address the potential effects of *(a)* recent and *(b)* future increases in food prices. [47281]

**Mr Duncan:** The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to helping 6 million people escape from extreme poverty through cash transfers, which help recipients cope with a variety of shocks including food price rises. We are also working to improve cash transfer delivery systems to make them more responsive to food price rises. For example in Ethiopia, people can receive their transfer as food rather than cash if they cannot afford local food prices. In some countries such as Mozambique we are supporting the development of public works programmes that can be scaled up when food prices rise sharply. In response to global crises—including food price spikes—DFID has contributed £2 million to the World Bank's Rapid Social Response Multi-Donor Programme, which provides technical assistance to help strengthen social protection systems. We have also committed £200 million to a World Bank Crisis Response Facility which will help to pay for social protection systems in low income countries.

### Microfinance

**Valerie Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in which countries his Department funds microfinance projects. [47119]

**Mr Duncan:** The Department for International Development's (DFID's) support for microfinance is incorporated into broader financial sector development programmes, which have a range of interventions including policy and regulatory reform, capacity building, product innovation and research. Programmes are often implemented by intermediaries, such as non-governmental organisations, Government agencies or in partnership with other donors.

We do not hold a central database with disaggregated information on support provided to microfinance projects through DFID-funded financial sector development programmes. Examples of financial sector development programmes with microfinance components include:

Financial Sector Deepening Trusts in Kenya and Tanzania promoting access to finance for the poor.

Enhancing Financial Innovation and Access in Nigeria developing a national financial inclusion strategy, innovating products and building the capacity of financial institutions.

International Finance Corporation's $150 million multi-donor programme implemented in 19 countries in the middle east and north Africa.

The Consultative Group on Assisting the Poor (CGAP) developing best practice, standards and technical tools to support the sustainable development of microfinance in developing countries worldwide.

### Overseas Aid

**Craig Whittaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had on *(a)* the outcome of his Department's recent evaluation of cash transfers and *(b)* the potential implications of such findings for his Department's policies on this issue. [46374]

**Mr Duncan:** The Department for International Development (DFID) is currently finalising a comprehensive Evidence Paper on Cash Transfers that has drawn on expertise inside and outside of DFID. The paper concludes that cash transfers can be a highly effective way to reach the poorest and help them lift themselves out of extreme poverty, The paper will be published in the next two weeks on DFID's Research4Development website. Findings from the paper have already fed into the discussions that Ministers have had as part of the recent Bilateral Aid Review. Coming out of that review, DFID has committed to helping more than 6 million of the world's poorest to escape extreme poverty—through cash transfers.

### West Africa: Cotton

**Justin Tomlinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the effects of EU cotton subsidies on west African cotton farmers; and if he will make a statement. [46766]

**Mr Duncan:** The UK Government have supported significant research into the impact of cotton subsidies on African and west African farmers, including the impact of EU cotton subsidies. These subsidies have a significant negative impact on farmers in west Africa and their removal is a key objective of the UK Government.

The Department for International Development (DFID) works closely with DEFRA to reform the EU common agricultural policy and eliminate direct support to the EU cotton sector.

### Developing Countries: Multinational Companies

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the costs to developing countries of the proposed relaxation of the controlled foreign company rules and taxation of foreign branches proposals. [46089]

**Mr Gauke:** I have been asked to reply.

Treasury Ministers hold regular conversations with the Secretary of State for International Development on a wide range of issues regarding developing countries.

The Government published the consultation document "Corporate Tax Reform: delivering a more competitive system" on 29 November 2010 which includes the proposals for a new CFC regime and for reforms to the taxation of foreign branches. The Government are committed to an open transparent consultation and have encouraged engagement with all interested parties. This has included engaging with non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

The Government work through a variety of channels to deliver high-quality capacity building in developing country tax administrations to ensure that these countries are in a position to collect the tax they are owed.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Big Society Bank

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what arrangements he plans to put in place to fund the big society bank; and whether he expects there to be any differences in the operation of the bank in each nation or region. [42415]

**Mr Hurd:** The Government have committed to using 100% of dormant accounts funds available for spending in England to set up the big society bank. In addition, four of the UK's main banks have agreed to support the establishment of the bank with the injection, on a commercial basis, of £200 million of capital over two years, commencing in 2011.

We expect that the independent big society bank will have the ability to operate across the UK.

### Big Society Network

**Tessa Jowell:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what contracts his Department holds with the big society network. [46525]

**Mr Hurd:** None.

### Census

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what options he is considering as an alternative to holding a full UK Census in 2021; [46954]

(2) what estimate he has made of the financial savings which would accrue from holding an alternative to a full UK Census in 2021; [47080]

(3) what consideration he has given to *(a)* accuracy, *(b)* data security and *(c)* ethics in assessing alternatives to a full UK Census for 2021. [47081]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking:

(1) what options are being considered as an alternative to holding a full UK Census in 2021 (46954)

(2) what estimate has been made of the financial savings which would accrue from holding an alternative to a full UK Census in 2021 (47080)

(3) what consideration has been given to (a) accuracy, (b) data security and (c) ethics in assessing alternatives to a full UK Census for 2021. (47081)

The UK Statistics Authority proposed looking at alternatives to the traditional census and this work is being taken forward by the National Statistician through the Beyond 2011 programme. Proposals will be made in 2014.

The Beyond 2011 programme is currently at the early initiation stages, launching in April 2011, and it will look at the full range of options for providing census-type information. Current international practice is to collect socio-demographic data through a variety of different approaches including using administrative sources and registers, traditional censuses, rolling censuses, voluntary surveys or a combination of these.

Users will be widely consulted as part of a Beyond 2011 consultation which will take place later in 2011. There are likely to be open web based consultations, road shows and a system of advisory committees and user groups as happened during the review to determine the need for the 2011 Census. These events will provide ample opportunity to contribute to all aspects of the Beyond 2011 debate, including for central and local government, Parliament and the wider public.

There will be many considerations in coming to a decision in 2014 about our future approach, most notably meeting our legal obligations, accuracy and costs. It is too early to provide answers at this point on these issues but they are central to the work that is being undertaken. Data security, ethics and other risks will also be carefully considered in the assessment of future options, as they are for the traditional census.

All contributions to this work will be welcome. The Beyond 2011 programme team directly can be emailed directly on Beyond2011@ons.gsi.gov.uk and progress can be checked through the ONS website at:

www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/methodology-and-quality/imps/beyond-2011/index.html

### Charities: Finance

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of operational charities receive funding from the public purse. [45933]

**Mr Hurd** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* The Department does not hold data on the proportion of operational charities in receipt of funding from the public purse.

Data from the National Council for Voluntary Organisations' Civil Society Almanac 2010 estimate that 22% of general charities receive income from statutory sources in the form of grant or contract income.

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* charities and *(b)* operational charities with two or more employees receive funding from the public purse. [45934]

**Mr Hurd** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* The Department does not hold data on the number of charities and operational charities with two or more employees in receipt of funding from the public purse. Data from the National Council for Voluntary Organisations' Civil Society Almanac 2010 estimate that 22% of general charities receive income from statutory sources in the form of grants or contracts; however these data are not broken down by number of employees.

Survey estimates for the wider voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector are available through the National Survey of Third Sector Organisations. These estimates are based on a sample response from a range of sector organisations and as such are not comparable to NCVO figures on general charities only. Data from the 2008 Survey, re-analysed by the Third Sector Research Centre, are as follows:

| *Number of staff (FTEs)* | *Proportion of VCSE organisations in receipt of public funds (grant and contract income) (estimated)* |
|---|---|
| No FTE | 22 |
| 1 | 39 |
| 2 | 45 |
| 3 to 5 | 59 |
| 6 to 10 | 69 |
| 11 to 30 | 71 |
| 31 to 100 | 74 |
| 101 plus | 75 |
| No answer | n/a |
| Total | 36 |

### Charities: Redundancy Pay

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will have discussions with the Charity Commission on the size of redundancy payments permitted to be made by charities. [44953]

**Mr Hurd:** There are no plans to have such discussions with the Charity Commission. Charity trustees are under a duty to act in their charity's best interests, but are free to make decisions relating to their charity if made properly and within the law. This is the cornerstone of charities' independence. The Charity Commission's role is to ensure transparency so that the public, in its various capacities as taxpayer, donor and beneficiary, can hold trustees to account on such issues.

The Charity Commission can intervene only in cases where there is a serious risk of significant harm to or abuse of a charity, its assets, beneficiaries or reputation, and where it considers intervention is necessary and proportionate. Otherwise the Charity Commission is precluded by statute from intervening in the administration of a charity, including decisions about redundancy payments.

### Charity Commission: Political Activities

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will have discussions with the Charity Commission on the requirements for political neutrality of that body. [44954]

**Mr Hurd:** There are no plans to have such discussions with the Charity Commission. The Charity Commission has an important and well-known role in promoting public trust and confidence in charities as the independent registrar and regulator of charities in England and Wales. As a non-ministerial department it is independent of Government and its independence from ministerial direction or control is set out in statute, and is an essential feature as it needs to be politically impartial in its decision making. The recent review of public bodies also reached this conclusion.

The Charity Commission adheres to the Civil Service Code, including the requirement for impartiality—acting solely according to the merits of the case and with political impartiality.

### Community Development

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will assess the influence of religious engagement on levels of civic engagement. [42123]

**Mr Hurd:** The Cabinet Office has no plans at the moment to assess the influence of religious engagement on levels of civic engagement.

### Efficiency and Reform Group

**Tessa Jowell:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the highest salary is of a member of staff working in his Department's Efficiency and Reform Group. [46429]

**Mr Maude:** Salaries for senior civil servants were published on the Cabinet Office website as part of the Government's Transparency Agenda:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/structure-charts-cabinet-office

### Employment: Third Sector

**Tom Blenkinsop:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of people to be employed in the charitable and voluntary sector in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Teesside and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency at the end of (i) March 2011 and (ii) each subsequent financial year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [47589]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for the number of people to be employed in the charitable and voluntary sector in (a) England, (b) the North East, (c) Teesside and (d) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency at the end of (i) March 2011 and (ii) each subsequent financial year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period (47589).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) does not produce such estimates.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

## Epilepsy: Death

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each (i) age group and (ii) strategic health authority's area died in circumstances attributable to epilepsy in each of the last five years. [45600]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2001:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many (a) males and (b) females in each (i) age group and (ii) strategic health authority's area died in circumstances attributable to epilepsy in each of the last five years. (45600)

The table provides the number of deaths where epilepsy was the underlying cause of death, for (a) males and (b) females in each (i) age group and (ii) strategic health authority in England, from 2005 to 2009 (latest year available).

The number of deaths registered in England and Wales each year by sex, age and cause are published annually on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15096

*Table1: Number of deaths where epilepsy was the underlying cause of death, by sex, age group and strategic health authority, England, 2005-09*[1, 2, 3]

*Deaths*

| | | *Male* | | | | | *Female* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Strategic health authority* | *Age group* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
| *North East* | 0-09 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| | 10-19 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| | 20-29 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| | 30-39 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| | 40-49 | 8 | 6 | 10 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 2 |
| | 50-59 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| | 60-69 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 5 |
| | 70-79 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 2 |
| | 80 and over | 5 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 8 |
| *North West* | 0-09 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| | 10-19 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| | 20-29 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 4 |
| | 30-39 | 19 | 17 | 15 | 8 | 10 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| | 40-49 | 22 | 17 | 20 | 20 | 18 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 11 | 9 |
| | 50-59 | 17 | 9 | 10 | 13 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 2 | 8 | 6 |
| | 60-69 | 10 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 13 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 7 |
| | 70-79 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 12 | 17 | 9 | 5 | 15 | 10 | 4 |
| | 80 and over | 10 | 6 | 7 | 14 | 7 | 11 | 15 | 10 | 11 | 18 |
| *Yorkshire and the Humber* | 0-09 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| | 10-19 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| | 20-29 | 12 | 5 | 7 | 11 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| | 30-39 | 3 | 9 | 12 | 7 | 10 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 3 |
| | 40-49 | 7 | 12 | 14 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 9 |
| | 50-59 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 11 | 4 | 4 |
| | 60-69 | 6 | 11 | 8 | 6 | 10 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 5 |
| | 70-79 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 5 |
| | 80 and | 8 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 14 | 11 | 9 | 16 | 15 |
| *East Midlands* | 0-09 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| | 10-19 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 1 |

*Table1: Number of deaths where epilepsy was the underlying cause of death, by sex, age group and strategic health authority, England, 2005-09*[1, 2, 3]

*Deaths*

| *Strategic health authority* | *Age group* | *Male* | | | | | *Female* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
| | 20-29 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| | 30-39 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| | 40-49 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| | 50-59 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 7 |
| | 60-69 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| | 70-79 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 6 |
| | 80 and over | 6 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 10 |
| *West Midlands* | 0-09 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | 10-19 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| | 20-29 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 6 |
| | 30-39 | 14 | 8 | 15 | 10 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 12 |
| | 40-49 | 15 | 15 | 12 | 15 | 21 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 8 |
| | 50-59 | 10 | 14 | 7 | 12 | 11 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 3 |
| | 60-69 | 12 | 11 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| | 70-79 | 8 | 12 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 11 |
| | 80 and over | 11 | 11 | 5 | 11 | 10 | 12 | 11 | 8 | 15 | 10 |
| *East of England* | 0-09 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| | 10-19 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| | 20-29 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 6 |
| | 30-39 | 12 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 4 |
| | 40-49 | 17 | 11 | 5 | 13 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 9 |
| | 50-59 | 7 | 8 | 12 | 11 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 3 |
| | 60-69 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 11 | 10 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 2 |
| | 70-79 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| | 80+ | 7 | 13 | 7 | 10 | 7 | 15 | 10 | 15 | 16 | 15 |
| *London* | 0-09 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| | 10-19 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| | 20-29 | 10 | 8 | 12 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 4 |
| | 30-39 | 10 | 14 | 11 | 19 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 2 |
| | 40-49 | 20 | 20 | 18 | 19 | 10 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 3 |
| | 50-59 | 9 | 13 | 5 | 12 | 11 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 9 |
| | 60-69 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 7 |
| | 70-79 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 10 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 8 |
| | 80 and over | 7 | 7 | 8 | 11 | 4 | 10 | 11 | 9 | 8 | 14 |
| *South East Coast* | 0-09 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| | 10-19 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | 20-29 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 3 |
| | 30-39 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 0 |
| | 40-49 | 9 | 10 | 7 | 11 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 5 |
| | 50-59 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 12 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 1 |
| | 60-69 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| | 70-79 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 5 |
| | 80 and over | 2 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 12 | 10 | 13 |
| *South Central* | 0-09 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| | 10-19 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | 20-29 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 |
| | 30-39 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 4 |

*Table1: Number of deaths where epilepsy was the underlying cause of death, by sex, age group and strategic health authority, England, 2005-09*[1, 2, 3]

*Deaths*

| | | *Male* | | | | | *Female* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Strategic health authority* | *Age group* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
| | 40-49 | 13 | 14 | 6 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 5 |
| | 50-59 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| | 60-69 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 2 |
| | 70-79 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| | 80 and over | 6 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 11 | 8 | 6 | 7 |
| *South West* | 0-09 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| | 10-19 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | 20-29 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 7 |
| | 30-39 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 15 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| | 40-49 | 10 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| | 50-59 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 12 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| | 60-69 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| | 70-79 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| | 80 and over | 5 | 5 | 15 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 12 | 21 | 17 |

[1] Cause of death for epilepsy was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes G40-G41.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2011.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

## Mutual Pathfinder Fund

**Chris Evans:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the potential monetary value of bids to the mutual pathfinder fund. [44892]

**Mr Hurd:** The mutuals pathfinder programme has no Government funding attached. The pathfinder organisations receive support through expert mentors. All the mentors have offered their support for free and are working with staff in the pathfinder projects to help them develop a range of sustainable, efficient and pioneering employee-led services.

Government will invest over £10 million to fund a programme of support for some of the most promising and innovative mutuals so that they reach the point of investment readiness. This programme is currently being developed.

## Office for Civil Society: Operating Costs

**Roberta Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the operational costs of the Office for Civil Society at the end of *(a)* March 2011 and *(b)* each subsequent financial year in the comprehensive spending review period. [46548]

**Mr Hurd:** Expenditure by the Office for Civil Society in 2010-11 is reported in the Cabinet Office annual report and accounts and includes information on administrative expenditure.

## Office for Civil Society: Secondment

**Roberta Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many civil servants have been engaged in work of the Office for Civil Society *(a)* through secondment and *(b)* in addition to their usual duties from (i) the Department for Communities and Local Government and (ii) the office of the Deputy Prime Minister. [46549]

**Mr Hurd:** Since the creation of the Office for Civil Society (May 2011) there has been one official on secondment from the Department for Communities and Local Government.

## Office for Civil Society: TimeBank

**Hazel Blears:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much the Office for Civil Society paid to TimeBank in each year since 2007. [46948]

**Mr Hurd:** Since the beginning of the financial year 2007-08 the Office for Civil Society has provided TimeBank with grants of the following value:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 609,950 |
| 2008-09 | 622,750 |
| 2009-10 | 775,300 |
| 2010-11 | 525,300 |
| Total | 2,533,300 |

## Older People: Voluntary Work

**Jonathan Evans:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent assessment he has made of the contribution to the economy of older volunteers. [45488]

**Mr Hurd:** The Cabinet Office has not made a recent assessment of the contribution to the economy of older volunteers. However, a research report, "Gold age pensioners—valuing the socio-economic contribution of older people in the UK", was published on the subject in March 2011 by the charity, WRVS. This can be downloaded from:

www.goldagepensioners.com

### Public Sector: Mutual Societies

**Tessa Jowell:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many organisations have tendered to deliver the programme of support for public sector mutuals. [46425]

**Mr Hurd:** Government will invest over £10 million to fund a programme of support for some of the most promising and innovative mutuals so that they reach the point of investment readiness. This programme is currently being developed. Therefore, no tender process has been undertaken to date.

### Third Sector

**Roberta Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many civil servants have been engaged in the work of the big society ministerial group *(a)* through either secondment and *(b)* in addition to their usual duties; and how many such people are employed by (i) his Department, (ii) the Department for Communities and Local Government and (iii) the office of the Deputy Prime Minister. [46545]

**Mr Hurd:** The Cabinet Office estimates that providing secretariat to the IMG on big society and localism requires approximately 0.1 FTE at grade 5, 0.2 at Band A, and 0.15 at B2, along with minimal time at administration grades and within Minsters' private offices. In addition, we estimate that preparation of a typical paper for the group requires approximately three working days at either Band A or B2 level; the Cabinet Office typically presents two papers at each IMG meeting. Secretariat and most papers for the IMG are provided by the Office for Civil Society; while OCS works closely on common issues with the ODPM, it has not so far commissioned papers from this unit for a meeting of the IMG.

DCLG estimate that the IMG requires less than 0.1 FTE at Grade 7, and less than 0.1 FTE at HEO. Time to prepare papers is similar to OCS estimates; DCLG typically presents one paper to each meeting of the IMG.

The IMG on big society and localism meets for the third time on 16 March 2011.

### Third Sector: Finance

**Roberta Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what mechanisms he has put in place to evaluate the performance of his Department's Transition Fund for civil society organisations. [46543]

**Mr Hurd:** The Transition Fund is being monitored and evaluated by Big Fund, the delivery partner, against the programme outcome that:

> "civil society organisations, which deliver high quality public services, are more resilient, agile and able to take opportunities presented by a changing funding environment".

**Hazel Blears:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the potential effects of reductions in Government funding to the charities and voluntary sector on the level of employment in that sector. [47325]

**Mr Hurd:** The Government's programme of reform will create significant new opportunities for the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector as we open up public service markets and make these markets more accessible to the sector.

Data are not available to enable the Department to forecast future levels of employment in the sector. However we continue to work closely with partners in the sector and across Government to assess and support the capacity of the sector.

### Third Sector: Manpower

**Roberta Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of people he expects to be employed in the charitable and voluntary sector at the end of *(a)* March 2011 and *(b)* each subsequent financial year of the comprehensive spending review period. [46546]

**Mr Hurd:** The Government's programme of reform will create significant new opportunities for the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector as we open up public service markets and make these markets more accessible to the sector.

Data are not available to enable the Department to forecast future levels of employment in the sector. However we continue to work closely with partners in the sector and across Government to assess and support the capacity of the sector.

### Third Sector: Redundancy Pay

**Roberta Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the proportion of the Transition Fund which will be spent on redundancy payments. [46544]

**Mr Hurd:** The Transition Fund is intended to help organisations make the necessary changes in order to thrive in the long term, for example by restructuring, developing a social enterprise arm and preparing for changes such as personal budgets. There have been over 1,700 applications to the Transition Fund and these are still being assessed by Big Fund, our delivery partner. It is not possible to say what proportion of the Transition Fund will be spent on redundancy payments but, given the focus of the fund, we do not expect it to be a significant amount.

### Voluntary Organisations: Business

**Esther McVey:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 370W, on voluntary organisations, what recent assessment his Department has made of the progress made in establishing Business Connectors; and if he will make a statement. [44463]

**Mr Hurd:** Business Connectors is a business-led initiative. Last autumn, Business in the Community (BITC) consulted with senior business leaders on what business sees as its role in supporting the Government's vision of a big society. The clear response was that business can and wants to do more to engage and support local communities, and that the most successful business/community partnerships are based on individuals from business working with local civil society organisations.

In December, the Prime Minister challenged business to increase the number of these brokers or "business connectors". BITC will shortly announce 20 pilot areas.

More information about Business Connectors can be found through Business in the Community:

www.bitc.org.uk

**Esther McVey:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 370W, on voluntary organisations, what recent assessment his Department has made of the progress made on the Every Business Counts initiative; and if he will make a statement. [44464]

**Mr Hurd:** The Prime Minister launched Every Business Commits in a speech on 2 December 2010, calling on businesses to help create a more sustainable and community-centred approach to doing business. Work on this initiative is being led by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), and the responsible Minister is the hon. Member for Kingston and Surbiton (Mr Davey).

BIS is working with networks of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to identify ways in which the Government can make it easier for business to respond to Every Business Commits. This includes identifying businesses' priorities for success and determining where barriers, such as regulation, can be removed. BIS is also talking to large businesses about how they can support SMEs through their own activity and supply chains.

### Voluntary Organisations: Labour Turnover

**Alun Michael:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the likely change in the number of jobs in the voluntary sector in the next three years. [43275]

**Mr Hurd:** The Government's programme of reform will create significant new opportunities for the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector as we open up public service markets and make these markets more accessible to the sector.

Data are not available to enable the Department to forecast future levels of employment in the sector. However, we continue to work closely with partners in the sector and across Government to assess and support the capacity of the sector.

### Voluntary Work

**Hazel Blears:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of trends in the level of volunteering in the last 10 years. [47326]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested is available in the Government's Citizenship Survey. The survey shows the following levels of formal and informal volunteering once a month.

*Percentage of people participating in formal and informal volunteering (at least once a month) in England, by year*

*Percentage*

| | *2001* | *2003* | *2005* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Informal volunteering | 34 | 37 | 37 | 35 | 35 | 29 |
| Formal volunteering | 27 | 28 | 29 | 27 | 26 | 25 |

### Voluntary Work and Charitable Donations

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether his Department has a policy to encourage its employees to *(a)* volunteer and *(b)* donate via payroll giving. [43231]

**Mr Hurd:** Cabinet Office encourages all employees to *(a)* volunteer and *(b)* donate via payroll giving. Cabinet Office staff are eligible for up to five days special paid leave per year for volunteering activity. Staff are encouraged to donate via payroll giving through regular promotion, including as part of the induction of new staff.

### Voluntary Work: Young People

**Roberta Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many young people he expects to participate in the National Citizen Service programme following its initial pilot scheme. [46547]

**Mr Hurd:** No decisions have been taken about the roll-out of National Citizen Service beyond the two-year pilot stage. Over 11,000 young people will have the opportunity to take part in pilot schemes in summer 2011, and a further 30,000 in summer 2012. An external evaluation of the pilots will inform decisions about the nature and scale of future roll-out. If the pilots are successful, we hope that over time NCS can be made available to all 16-year-olds who want to take part.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Armed Forces: Children

**Jack Lopresti:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to help prevent the recruitment and deployment of child soldiers. [47310]

**Mr Bellingham:** We are committed to ending the recruitment and deployment of child soldiers. We apply diplomatic pressure to offending Governments and armed groups, as well as funding projects to help protect and rehabilitate vulnerable children. The UK is also a member of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC), which helps to lead the international response to the issue of child soldiers. This includes pressing armed groups to work with the UN to verify and release any child soldiers associated with them.

### British Overseas Territories: Official Visits

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to make an official visit to British Overseas Territories. [47442]

**Mr Bellingham:** The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has no immediate plans to visit British Overseas Territories.

Since my appointment as Minister for the Overseas Territories, I have visited the Turks and Caicos Islands and Anguilla. I am keen to continue to visit Overseas Territories and plan to make further visits later this year, but it is not practice to announce these visits until they are confirmed.

### China: Politics and Government

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will raise with his Chinese counterpart reports of unauthorised access by state officials to personal and business e-mail accounts operated by British news organisations in that country. [47240]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** We have consistently raised the treatment of foreign media working in China with the Chinese authorities both bilaterally in London and Beijing and in conjunction with EU partners.

We are aware of reports of unauthorised access of e-mail accounts of representatives of the international media.

We oppose any form of pressure on or intimidation towards foreign media by Chinese authorities to influence their reporting. We have consistently called on Chinese authorities to observe their obligations on human rights under international law, including on freedom of speech, and will continue to do so.

### Council of Europe

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UK has participated in the Council of Europe's project on "Living together in 21st century Europe"; and what discussions Ministers have had with *(a)* the Council of Europe and *(b)* their member state counterparts on the project. [46847]

**Mr Lidington:** "Living Together in 21st Century Europe" is a report being prepared for the Council of Europe (CoE) by the CoE Group of Eminent Persons. This group consists of independent experts. Ministers have not discussed the forthcoming report (due for publication in May) within the CoE or with member state counterparts.

### Democratic Republic of Congo: Elections

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with his counterpart in the Democratic Republic of Congo steps to ensure that *(a)* parliamentary and *(b)* presidential elections are held in that country in 2011. [47342]

**Mr Bellingham:** The Independent Election Commission in the Democratic Republic of Congo recently informed donor countries that technical delays in voter registration mean that one or both elections may now have to take place in early 2012. We continue to urge the authorities of the Democratic Republic of Congo to ensure that parliamentary and presidential elections are held in a timely, transparent manner, and that any changes to the electoral calendar are made constitutionally and in consultation with all parties.

Our ambassador recently met the President of the National Assembly and the Vice-Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo to express our concern over any delays to the electoral process, and will continue to raise the issue at the most senior levels.

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with the Secretary General of the United Nations an extension to the UN mandate in the Democratic Republic of Congo until after free and fair parliamentary and presidential elections have taken place. [47343]

**Mr Bellingham:** The UN Organisation Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) mandate expires in June 2011 and its renewal is due to be discussed by the UN Security Council shortly. Under UN Security Council Resolution 1925, MONUSCO is mandated to provide logistical and technical support for the elections. The UK is clear that the priority for MONUSCO must be protection of civilians. Any decision related to drawdown of MONUSCO forces must be made by the UN Security Council on the basis of the situation on the ground.

### Departmental Expenditure

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what expenditure *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each public body sponsored by his Department incurred on engaging external audit services in each of the last three years; and to which service providers such payments were made in each year. [43747]

**Alistair Burt:** Expenditure by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on engaging external audit services for the last three financial years was as follows:

*£000*

| | *Auditor* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Foreign and Commonwealth Office[1] | NAO | 250 | 288 | 265 |
| FCO Services[2] | NAO | 75 | 109 | 123 |
| BBC World Service | KPMG | 100 | 100 | 100 |

| | | | | £000 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Auditor* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
| British Council | NAO | 128 | 136 | 136 |
| | Howarth Clark Whitehill LLP | 5.9 | — | — |
| Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission | NAO | 4.7 | 4.6 | 4.7 |
| Great Britain China Centre | NAO | — | 5 | 5 |
| | Keith, Vaudrey and Co | 2.4 | — | — |
| Westminster Foundation for Democracy | NAO | — | 14.7 | 12 |
| | Baker Tilly | 14.7 | — | — |
| Wilton Park[1] | NAO | 20 | 23 | 23 |

[1] Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Wilton Park; audit fee is a non-cash charge and therefore notional (2007-10).

[2] FCO Services; notional cost only in 2007-08.

### Departmental Leaseback Arrangements

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assets his Department has sold and leased back over the last 12 months; what the sale price was of each asset so sold; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of leasing back each such asset over the period of the lease. [45068]

**Alistair Burt:** Over the last 12 months the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not sold and leased back any assets in the UK.

### Departmental Procurement

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many procurement projects with a monetary value greater than *(a)* £10 million, *(b)* £50 million and *(c)* £100 million (i) his Department and (ii) each non-departmental public body and agency for which he is responsible was engaged upon in the latest period for which figures are available. [45561]

**Alistair Burt:** The number of procurement projects within the three monetary value thresholds for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) are:

*(a)* £10 million: 12

*(b)* £50 million: 0

*(c)* £100 million: 0.

These projects cover the time period 2009-10 and 2010 to date. Their objectives were to improve the FCO's global operations and provide better value for money for the taxpayer. For example, the Echo project will deliver cheaper and better IT services to the FCO and other Government Departments and save up to £90 million, and will reduce flights, travel and carbon emissions through increased use of video conferencing. Other contracts include security guarding, close protection and police mentoring to help ensure the safety of our staff. All projects are subject to strict value for money criteria. There are no procurement projects that fall within the above criteria for Wilton Park and the non-departmental public bodies.

### Regulation

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what regulations his Department revoked between 9 and 28 February 2011. [47058]

**Alistair Burt:** Regulations are a specific type of statutory instrument. They are very rarely sponsored by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office did not revoke any secondary legislation between 9 and 28 February 2011.

### Egypt: Politics and Government

**Kwasi Kwarteng:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the plans of the Government of Egypt for a democratic settlement in that country. [47181]

**Alistair Burt:** We welcome the appointment of the new Egyptian Prime Minister and his Government. The recent Cabinet re-shuffle has introduced many new faces into the Egyptian Government. The constitutional referendum due to take place this Saturday is another significant and important development. We encourage the Egyptian Government to continue to consider wider constitutional reform in due course.

During my visit to Egypt from 9 to 11 March 2011, I met the Prime Minister and other members of the Government, and encouraged them to work out a public timetable for elections to allow for the development of effective political parties. A key first step to this action will be a new law on political parties. We understand that the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces will issue just such a law shortly after the referendum. We will continue to urge the Egyptian Government to engage in meaningful dialogue with opposition and activist groups to build trust with them so as to enable the aspirations of the people to be realised.

### Human Rights

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on which occasions human rights issues have been raised with the Government of *(a)* Morocco, *(b)* Tunisia, *(c)* Algeria, *(d)* Libya, *(e)* Egypt, *(f)* Yemen, *(g)* Saudi Arabia and *(h)* Bahrain by staff of his Department since June 2010. [46960]

**Alistair Burt** *[holding answer 16 March 2011]*: As the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), has made clear, the Government are committed to promoting human rights around the world.

Our high commissions and embassies have a responsibility to monitor and raise human rights in their host countries. They routinely raise our concerns with other governments and where possible, take action on individual cases where persecution or discrimination has occurred and lobby for changes in discriminatory practices and laws. The Government are in close cooperation with our EU and international partners to improve human rights across the world.

In June 2010, we raised our concerns with the Libyan Government about reports of human rights abuses at migrant detention centres and the temporary closure of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees office in Tripoli. We also raised on numerous occasions during last year a number of individual cases, including that of a British national who was held in incommunicado detention in Libya for five months until August 2010.

On 21 February 2011, the Permanent Under-Secretary, Simon Fraser, summoned the Libyan ambassador to underline the Government's grave concerns about the recent violence in Libya and Britain's clear condemnation of the unacceptable use of force against protestors in Libya. On 16 March 2011, the Permanent Under-Secretary called the ambassador to the Foreign Office to emphasise the UK's profound concern about the Libyan regime's ongoing attacks on civilians stating that perpetrators of such violence will be held to account. He also expressed concern about the continued harassment and detention of journalists in Libya.

We have also raised our concerns about human rights in Libya in international fora. In November 2010, we made a statement at Libya's Universal Periodic Review in which we raised a number of concerns, including freedom of expression, arbitrary detention and the incidence of torture. In response to serious human rights violations in Libya in February 2011, the UK drove through a UN Security Council resolution, which was passed with unanimous support and, as well as imposing sanctions, referred Libya to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. We also led on Human Rights Council resolution 15/2 that mandated a Commission of Inquiry to investigate alleged violations of international human rights law in Libya and played a key role in Libya's suspension from the Council on 1 March 2011.

In Egypt, we have raised human rights issues on a number of occasions, including during the UK-Egypt Strategic Dialogue in January 2011, with the Egyptian Assistant Minister for Human Rights in June and September 2010, during the electoral period in November and December 2010, and throughout the recent revolution.

Discussions on human rights form part of the Annual Strategic Dialogue between the UK and Algeria as well as a core component of the EU Association Agreement and discussions within the UN.

The issue of human rights formed a core component of both the EU Association Agreement and Advanced Status negotiations with the previous Tunisian Government. The issue has been an integral part of discussions with the present Government, both here in London and in Tunisia, as they implement a series of reforms in their move towards an open democratic society.

Discussions on human rights form a core component of the EU Association Agreement with Morocco. Senior Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have also raised human rights issues regularly with our Moroccan counterparts.

In Bahrain our ambassador has raised repeatedly with the Government of Bahrain since June 2010 the need to investigate transparently allegations of abuse of detainees; the need to respect freedom of expression; and the dismissal of the Board of the Bahrain Human Rights Society.

Embassy officials in Riyadh met the President of the Saudi Human Rights Commission in June 2010 and January 2011 to discuss human rights. The UK supported EU officials in November 2010 in raising the case of a Sri Lankan national sentenced to death. Our embassy raises human rights as part of their regular meetings with the Saudi Government.

Our ambassador in Sana'a and senior visiting officials raised concerns about media restrictions with the Yemeni Government in February this year. In September and December 2010 the UK participated in EU demarches concerning freedom of expression and the death penalty. Human rights form part of the agreed deliverables for the Friends of Yemen group in New York on 27 September 2010. With reports of human rights violations during recent protests we have voiced our concerns directly to senior Yemeni Ministers.

## Indonesia: Foreign Relations

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the state of relations between the UK and Indonesia; and if he will make a statement. [47334]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** Relations between the UK and Indonesia continue to strengthen as Indonesia consolidates its economic and political development. Our co-operation with Indonesia spans a wide range of activities including regional peace and security, trade and investment, the economy, climate change and counter-terrorism. The UK is the third largest investor in Indonesia and we are working hard to enhance our links in this area.

The Indonesian Government have made significant efforts in recent years to entrench democratic reforms and good governance. Challenges remain but we believe the best way to consolidate progress is through enhanced engagement.

## Libya: British Nationals Abroad

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to request any payment from oil companies in respect of the cost of evacuating workers from oil fields in Libya. [44235]

**Alistair Burt:** In an evacuation, the Government will pay for transport out of the affected country, if there are no commercial means available. In line with this policy, on 23 February 2011, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs agreed with the Chancellor of the Exchequer that there should be no charging for any aspect of our charter or evacuation operations from Libya.

Many oil companies operating in Libya rightly took responsibility for evacuating their own staff where they could. Some oil workers were able to leave Libya across land borders with neighbouring countries. We therefore focused our efforts on British nationals in places where self-evacuation was not an option and it was too dangerous for the oil companies to conduct their own operations.

### Libya: Higher Education

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has *(a)* had any discussions with and *(b)* provided any assistance to British universities in securing (i) contracts and (ii) financial support from Libya in the last 10 years. [46074]

**Alistair Burt:** I refer my hon. Friend to the response given to him by the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the hon. Member for Hertford and Stortford (Mr Prisk) on 15 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 306W.

### Middle East: Politics and Government

**Kwasi Kwarteng:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Iranian Government on measures to increase the level of stability in the middle east and the Gulf. [47180]

**Alistair Burt:** We have repeatedly urged Iran to work with the international community to build a stable and secure future for the region. Unfortunately Iran's current behaviour, including support for militant groups throughout the region, is at odds with its claim to support stability. We are deeply concerned by the latest evidence that Iran continues to supply the Taliban with weaponry.

We remain gravely concerned by Iran's nuclear programme, which is a serious source of instability in the middle east. We remain committed to a diplomatic solution but Iran must show it is serious about addressing international concerns or face increasing international isolation and pressure.

### Overseas Aid

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the monetary value of all of his Department's expenditure in each individual country in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [40310]

**Mr Hague:** Foreign and Commonwealth Office administration costs for 2009-10 and 2010-11 is found in the following table. 2010-11 figures contain actual and forecast expenditure. 2011-12 details cannot be provided as we are still finalising budgets. Programme expenditure by country, some of which is paid directly from the UK but spent by project implementers in the countries where we run projects, is not held centrally and therefore could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

| | | £ |
|---|---|---|
| *Country* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
| Afghanistan | 24,946,846 | 26,366,583 |
| Albania | 517,817 | 494,633 |
| Algeria | 2,393,256 | 1,905,795 |
| Angola | 1,436,593 | 1,443,148 |
| Anguilla | 331,472 | 369,124 |
| Argentina | 2,458,243 | 2,413,797 |
| Armenia | 522,933 | 531,856 |
| Ascension Islands | 120,249 | 13,266 |
| Austria | 3,506,005 | 3,216,862 |
| Azerbaijan | 1,229,051 | 987,939 |
| Bahrain | 842,812 | 960,181 |
| Bangladesh | 3,262,325 | 2,628,723 |
| Barbados | 1,621,312 | 1,591,849 |
| Belarus | 454,154 | 491,657 |
| Belgium | 10,550,738 | 9,598,253 |
| Belize | 600,864 | 710,558 |
| Bermuda | 146,372 | 16,101 |
| Bolivia | 444,113 | 473,438 |
| Bosnia-Herzegovina | 1,083,558 | 1,109,992 |
| Botswana | 273,428 | 624,531 |
| Brazil | 9,496,236 | 10,942,314 |
| British Virgin Islands | 320,416 | 234,857 |
| Bulgaria | 1,233,231 | 1,045,772 |
| Cameroon | 784,339 | 662,838 |
| Canada | 6,061,612 | 6,482,119 |
| Cayman Islands | 137,636 | 157,628 |
| Chile | 1,651,731 | 1,767,215 |
| Colombia | 2,549,031 | 2,780,721 |
| Costa Rica | 524,288 | 453,133 |
| Croatia | 1,187,988 | 1,089,711 |
| Cuba | 841,452 | 885,174 |
| Cyprus | 2,641,565 | 2,981,451 |
| Czech Republic | 2,024,344 | 1,430,798 |
| Denmark | 3,317,394 | 3,642,693 |
| Dominican Republic | 390,849 | 450,488 |
| Ecuador | 633,638 | 572,098 |
| Egypt | 2,798,691 | 2,392,620 |
| Eritrea | 141,589 | 151,433 |
| Estonia | 876,354 | 807,525 |
| Ethiopia | 1,534,963 | 1,458,478 |
| Falkland Islands | 167,139 | 110,250 |
| Finland | 2,245,999 | 2,242,864 |
| France | 13,496,089 | 13,850,162 |
| Gambia | 731,952 | 734,031 |
| Georgia | 891,166 | 912,423 |
| Germany | 10,550,580 | 11,363,915 |
| Ghana | 3,199,980 | 3,413,193 |
| Gibraltar | 1,057,274 | 1,019,953 |
| Greece | 4,095,346 | 3,601,321 |
| Guatemala | 663,921 | 757,776 |
| Guyana | 739,272 | 511,010 |
| Hungary | 1,794,003 | 1,517,235 |
| Iceland | 375,535 | 442,132 |
| India | 11,851,064 | 12,247,784 |
| Iran | 3,422,475 | 3,387,878 |
| Iraq | 4,047,654 | 5,656,973 |

| | | £ |
|---|---|---|
| *Country* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
| Ireland | 2,992,273 | 2,476,518 |
| Israel | 2,683,275 | 2,628,336 |
| Italy | 8,363,489 | 8,262,603 |
| Jamaica | 3,088,609 | 2,898,477 |
| Jerusalem | 2,131,168 | 2,106,354 |
| Jordan | 2,535,857 | 2,270,166 |
| Kazakhstan | 1,090,939 | 1,113,559 |
| Kenya | 3,587,792 | 3,850,557 |
| Kuwait | 2,477,141 | 2,278,577 |
| Latvia | 715,669 | 612,219 |
| Lebanon | 2,240,985 | 2,342,288 |
| Libya | 2,319,326 | 2,340,171 |
| Lithuania | 672,259 | 658,083 |
| Luxembourg | 551,367 | 366,470 |
| Macedonia | 921,002 | 812,815 |
| Malawi | 505,906 | 606,708 |
| Malta | 695,215 | 691,585 |
| Mexico | 3,222,095 | 3,477,690 |
| Moldova | 416,627 | 386,175 |
| Montenegro | 372,328 | 311,734 |
| Montserrat | 350,306 | 259,100 |
| Morocco | 2,562,066 | 2,062,862 |
| Mozambique | 976,010 | 778,401 |
| Namibia | 250,532 | 262,981 |
| Nepal | 1,087,447 | 842,713 |
| Netherlands | 3,418,644 | 3,251,204 |
| Nigeria | 15,605,438 | 15,933,706 |
| Norway | 2,127,002 | 3,021,447 |
| Oman | 1,822,752 | 1,678,947 |
| Pakistan | 5,669,861 | 5,542,736 |
| Panama | 679,376 | 494,501 |
| Peru | 1,501,152 | 1,368,054 |
| Pitcairn | 75,244 | 62,639 |
| Poland | 2,238,891 | 2,386,551 |
| Portugal | 2,421,398 | 2,831,716 |
| Qatar | 1,866,127 | 1,800,397 |
| Romania | 1,859,524 | 1,723,445 |
| Russian Federation | 8,177,285 | 8,368,002 |
| Rwanda | 534,859 | 867,834 |
| Saudi Arabia | 4,576,469 | 4,040,259 |
| Senegal | 571,247 | 942,864 |
| Serbia | 3,530,377 | 3,026,665 |
| Sierra Leone | 1,345,351 | 1,404,590 |
| Slovakia | 731,722 | 702,085 |
| Slovenia | 733,994 | 736,089 |
| South Africa | 7,149,702 | 9,190,062 |
| Spain | 9,614,422 | 10,497,275 |
| Sri Lanka | 1,219,419 | 1,309,033 |
| St Helena | 162,688 | 60,842 |
| St Lucia | 131,965 | 118,662 |
| Sudan | 4,514,136 | 4,684,739 |
| Sweden | 2,826,793 | 3,697,158 |
| Switzerland | 5,617,438 | 5,839,303 |
| Syria | 1,254,283 | 1,207,300 |
| Tajikistan | 490,074 | 483,435 |
| Tanzania | 1,041,733 | 814,710 |
| The Democratic Republic of Congo | 1,893,115 | 2,082,864 |
| Trinidad | 1,211,794 | 952,999 |
| Tristan da Cunha | 288,787 | 20,172 |
| Tunisia | 1,202,934 | 941,481 |
| Turkey | 7,046,664 | 8,166,476 |
| Turkmenistan | 600,539 | 513,402 |
| Turks and Caicos Islands | 338,277 | 380,708 |
| Uganda | 1,521,395 | 1,761,842 |
| Ukraine | 1,756,998 | 2,186,661 |
| United Arab Emirates | 8,334,915 | 11,210,848 |
| Uruguay | 848,208 | 917,432 |
| USA | 24,710,760 | 29,197,884 |
| Uzbekistan | 834,864 | 857,801 |
| Venezuela | 1,468,968 | 1,649,687 |
| Yemen | 2,022,984 | 2,077,981 |
| Zambia | 966,463 | 1,000,263 |
| Zimbabwe | 1,798,044 | 2,150,411 |

## Patrol Craft: EU Grants and Loans

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to apply for funding for maritime patrol aircraft under the EU External Borders Fund. [46416]

**Damian Green:** I have been asked to reply.

The UK is excluded from the External Borders Fund as it builds on the part of the Schengen Agreement, in which the UK does not participate.

## Peacekeeping Operations

**Kwasi Kwarteng:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the circumstances in which UK armed forces should be committed for the purpose of keeping internal order in another country. [47182]

**Mr Lidington:** The Strategic Defence and Security Review set out the Government's position on the use of the armed forces. We will deploy them where key UK interests are at stake, where we have a clear strategic aim, where the likely political, economic and human costs are in proportion to the likely benefits, where we have a viable exit strategy, and where justifiable under international law. Decisions on individual deployments will be a matter for discussion in the National Security Council.

## Qatar: Trade Agreements

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to reach trade agreements with other countries following the model of the recent agreement with the Government of Qatar. [45377]

**Mr Prisk:** I have been asked to reply.

Following the signature of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) on Business, Trade and Technical Co-operation with Qatar in October 2010, we have signed a similar MOU with the Kuwaiti Government in February 2011. There are no other similar MOUs planned at this time.

### Somalia: Politics and Government

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Somalia; and what reports he has received of the *(a)* capture of Bulo Hawo and *(b)* recent deaths of African Union peacekeepers. [46415]

**Mr Bellingham:** The political situation in Somalia remains fragile and we continue to work with the Transitional Federal Government and our international and regional partners to take forward the UN-led Djibouti Peace Process. We have made clear to the Transitional Federal Institutions that there can be no extension of their mandate without reform to make them more legitimate and representative in the eyes of the Somali people. We are aware of the recent fighting in and around Bulo Hawo and are watching developments closely, particularly any impacts on the humanitarian situation in the area.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the professionalism, commitment and bravery of the African Union peacekeeping troops in Somalia. We regret the recent deaths of troops of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and have sent our condolences to the Governments of Burundi and Uganda. The UK fully supports AMISOM in its efforts to create secure space in Mogadishu. We have recently announced a £2 million contribution to the UN Trust Fund for AMISOM in support of its efforts.

### Sri Lanka: Human Rights

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the level of independence of Sri Lanka's Human Rights Commission. [44422]

**Alistair Burt:** The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights downgraded Sri Lanka's Human Rights Commission status in 2007. This changed the status from one of full compliance with the Paris Principles:

http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/parisprinciples.htm

to one of not full compliance and reflected concerns over its political and financial independence.

New Human Rights Commissioners have recently been appointed, in accordance with the 18th amendment to Sri Lanka's constitution, which was passed in 2010. Upon the passing of the 18th amendment we expressed our concern that the new appointment procedures as outlined, including for the Human Rights Commission, risked further weakening public trust in the independence of key institutions.

We have raised with the Sri Lankan Government the importance of having an effective Human Rights Commission. We will monitor the work of the newly constituted Commission.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

### Equality

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what steps she plans to take to introduce *(a)* the recommendations of the recent meeting of the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council and *(b)* the European Pact for Gender Equality; and what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse in implementing each. [47005]

**Lynne Featherstone:** The recent meeting of Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council considered two items of particular relevance. It took note of the annual report on progress towards equality between women and men 2010. This report acknowledges areas where progress has been made, both at national and European level. This report was for information only and no action is required.

The Council also adopted Council Conclusions on the European Pact for Gender Equality (2011-2020). This Pact reaffirmed the Council's intention to make progress on gender equality, particularly with regard to closing the gender gaps in employment and social protection; promoting better work-life balance for women and men; and combating all forms of violence against women. The Government are already taking comprehensive action in these areas, such as voluntary pay reporting and our Violence Against Women Action Plan. We are therefore not required to take additional action to implement the Gender Pact, and the additional implementation costs arising from the pact are nil.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Apprentices

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of apprenticeships which will be created in *(a)* Bedford constituency and *(b)* England in the next 12 months. [45393]

**Mr Hayes:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Southend West (Mr Amess) on 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, column reference 432W.

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* apprenticeship and *(b)* advanced apprenticeship starts there were in (i) Southend West constituency, (ii) the Southend borough council area and (iii) the Essex county council area (A) in total and (B) in each sector in each of the last five years; and what proportion of each were (1) men and (2) women. [45514]

**Mr Hayes:** I will place the relevant data tables in the Libraries of the House.

We only hold information at region, local education authority and parliamentary constituency levels of geography. Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 January at:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statistical firstrelease/sfr_current

### Credit Cards: Fees and Charges

**Mr David Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects the Office of Fair Trading to complete its investigation into surcharges for credit and debit card purchases. [47117]

**Mr Davey:** The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) is not currently investigating the surcharges for credit and debit card purchases. However it expects to receive a super-complaint on surcharges from *Which?* at the end of March. The OFT will consider the evidence submitted and undertake whatever work is necessary to establish the extent, if any, of the alleged problems. The OFT must then publish a response within 90 days from the day after which the super-complaint was received stating what action, if any, it proposes to take in response to the complaint and giving the reasons behind its decision. In some cases, it may be possible to resolve the concerns and propose remedies within the 90-day period but, in more complex cases, further work may be called for.

### Departmental Rail Travel

**Mr Godsiff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of civil servants in his Department are entitled to travel first class by rail within the UK. [46778]

**Mr Davey:** All staff are asked to give full consideration to the class of travel they use and the expectation is that staff will make official journeys at the lowest cost and using standard class of travel.

Under the current travel policy however for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) all staff in grades senior executive officer to senior civil service have a contractual entitlement to travel first class by rail within the UK. This represents 1,436 staff and equates to 53% of BIS staff.

Staff who have a contractual entitlement have been asked to reflect on whether they exercise this right before booking any travel at first class. First class rail travel from December 2010 to February 2011 represented 3% of the total journeys taken by the Department.

### Regulation

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what regulations his Department has repealed between 4 February and 28 February 2011. [45982]

**Mr Prisk:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Vale of Glamorgan (Alun Cairns) on 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 433W.

### English Language: Education

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Brighton, Pavilion constituency, his assessment of the effects of his Department's policy of removing funding for English for Speakers of Other Languages learners for people on benefits other than jobseeker's allowance and employment and support allowance in the work-related activity group; [46346]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL) learners who receive benefits in the Brighton and Hove area who received ESOL funding during the current academic year who would not receive funding under the proposals in his Department's Further Education—New Horizon: Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth strategy; [46347]

(3) what the definition is of the cohort referred to by the phrase "co-funding for those who are settled here" in the ESOL section of his Department's strategy document, Further Education—New Horizon: Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth; [46348]

(4) whether he has sought information from providers of courses of English for Speakers of Other Languages on *(a)* expected changes in the level of fees for their courses in the next academic year and *(b)* the reasons for such changes; and if he will make a statement. [46349]

**Mr Hayes:** The Equality Impact Assessment published alongside "Skills for Sustainable Growth" (November 2010) found that, at the aggregate level, there are unlikely to be disproportionate impacts on protected groups. A separate assessment of how the changes may affect English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) learners is currently being carried out by this Department, and I expect to be able to publish the assessment in due course. At the local level, colleges and training organisations are best placed to work with their communities to identify particularly vulnerable learners as a part of their business planning and local engagement.

In the 2009/10 academic year, 1,310 adult learners in Brighton and Hove local education authority participated in Government-funded ESOL courses; 700 were in receipt of full Government funding from the Adult Learner Responsive funding stream. From August, full Government funding will be provided for unemployed people in receipt of jobseeker's allowance or in the employment and support allowance (work-related activity) group, and this will include ESOL courses where English language skills have been identified as a barrier to entering employment. We will continue to pay 50% of ESOL course fees for people who are settled here. We will no longer fund ESOL courses delivered in the workplace.

Eligibility for full or part public funded ESOL provision is set out in the Skills Funding Agency's learner eligibility criteria, which is based on a person's ordinary residence. For funding purposes, the agency regards an ordinarily resident any person who habitually, normally and lawfully resides from choice and for a settled purpose in England. Full learner eligibility guidance can be found on the Skills Funding Agency and YPLA website:

http://readingroom.ypla.gov.uk/ypla/agency-leg2010-11-version1aon12-04-2010.pdf

As autonomous bodies, further education (FE) colleges and training providers are responsible for their fees policies. We have introduced increased freedoms and flexibilities for FE colleges and providers providing them with increased flexibility to respond to the needs of their communities.

### Further Education: Learner Support Fund

**Ben Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he proposes to permit further education colleges to distribute funds from the Learner Support Fund to students aged 19 and over. [47329]

**Mr Hayes:** Further education colleges currently distribute discretionary learner support funds to students aged 19 and over. The future arrangements for administering these funds are under consideration and announcements will be made in due course.

### Green Investment Bank: Interest Rates

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the mechanism for setting the interest rates for the Green Investment Bank; and if he will make a statement. [46273]

**Mr Prisk:** In the course of setting up the bank we have received a number of representations as to its business and operating model. I will be making a detailed announcement in May.

### Green Investment Bank: Scotland

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many meetings he has had with the Secretary of State for Scotland on the Green Investment Bank; and on which date each meeting took place. [46184]

**Mr Prisk:** To date the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has had one meeting with the Secretary of State for Scotland on the Green Investment Bank on the 26 January 2011.

### Local Enterprise Partnerships: Internet

**Michael Fallon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many local enterprise partnerships have websites. [47158]

**Mr Prisk** *[holding answer 16 March 2011]:* Currently nine local enterprise partnerships have bespoke websites. Other local enterprise partnerships are using local authority or existing partnership websites to share information.

### Northwest Regional Development Agency

**Alison McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made an assessment of the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* effect on employment levels in the north-west of the transfer to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of responsibility for the Northwest Regional Development Agency's rural development programme. [45800]

**Mr Paice:** I have been asked to reply.

There are limited costs as a result of the transfer of responsibility to deliver elements of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) from regional development agencies to DEFRA, primarily as a result of some IT and accommodation moves. These will be met from DEFRA's existing administrative RDPE budget, including costs related to the transfer of responsibilities from the Northwest Regional Development Agency. Efficiencies arising from these transfers are expected to contribute towards the savings currently anticipated under that programme as part of the Department's spending review settlement.

Employees of the Northwest Regional Development Agency who currently administer the delivery of the rural development programme have the right to transfer into DEFRA under the terms of the Cabinet Office Statement of Practice on staff transfers. The RDPE delivery will continue to be focussed on improving agricultural competitiveness and supporting rural businesses, including those in the north-west.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Friday 18 March 2011*

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Human: Trafficking

**Mr Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the First Minister of Northern Ireland on levels of cross-border human trafficking. [47656]

**Mr Swire:** Human trafficking issues relating to Northern Ireland are now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Justice Minister, Mr David Ford, and his Department who work directly with the Home Office on such matters.

The Secretary of State and I meet regularly with the Northern Ireland Justice Minister to discuss as necessary matters relating to security in Northern Ireland.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Arts: Nottinghamshire

**Mr Spencer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much Arts Council England spent in Sherwood constituency per head of population in the latest period for which figures are available. [47054]

**Mr Vaizey:** Arts Council England estimates spend at £0.19 per head in the Sherwood constituency, from £16,800 in grants for the arts awards in 2009-10.

Additionally, a number of organisations funded by the Arts Council tour their work in the constituency, though their funding is not represented in this figure.

### BBC: Radio

**Mr Blunkett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the BBC Trust on the future of BBC local radio. [47373]

**Mr Vaizey:** No recent discussions have been held with the BBC Trust on the future of BBC local radio.

### Betfair

**Fiona O'Donnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has made an assessment of the potential effects on the horseracing industry of the decision by Betfair to relocate offshore. [47548]

**John Penrose:** While we recognise that this is a commercial decision for Betfair, we are disappointed that it has moved its betting exchange for British customers offshore. However, Betfair has stated that it intends to make voluntary payments to British horseracing equivalent to those it would be required to make through the statutory Horserace Betting Levy for the 49th and 50th Levy Schemes. Looking ahead, I continue to speak to key stakeholders about the future of the Levy and the issues raised in the Department's consultation on remote gambling, and hope to make an announcement shortly.

### Broadband: Local Authorities

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will estimate the number of local authorities in England which will tender for the provision of high-speed broadband services in each year to 2015. [46774]

**Mr Vaizey:** Responsibility for the timing of tenders to be issued by local authorities is a matter for them. Guidance on the content of local broadband plans to form the basis of a submission to Broadband Delivery UK was issued on 7 March 2011.

### Departmental Broadband

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department has allocated for high-speed broadband provision in each year to 2015. [46775]

**Mr Vaizey:** No specific allocation has been made, but a total of £530 million was allocated in the spending review to support superfast broadband roll-out up to 2015. Allocations will depend on the procurements in a given year.

### Departmental Estate

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will take steps to reduce the size of his Department's estate; and if he will make a statement. [46744]

**John Penrose:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) leases space in four buildings; two of which have been fully sublet for the remainder of their leases.

Hotdesking has been introduced at the Department's main building, 2-4 Cockspur street, enabling the vacation of two floors. Negotiations with two new tenants are nearing completion and they are expected to take occupation of the space in July 2011. The occupancy level of 2-4 Cockspur street was 13.4 sq m per full-time equivalent (FTE) during 2009-10; this has subsequently been reduced to approximately 11 sq m per FTE.

DCMS will continue to review the size of its estate and make space available for subletting as staff numbers decrease. A full review of the estate will take place following the 2012 Olympics.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills have responsibility for the Government Property Unit and their response to this question was published on 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 150W.

### Departmental Food

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will estimate the proportion of the seafood procured for *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible that (i) was on the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid and (ii) complied with sustainability standards indicated by inclusion in either the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat or by the list of fish species certified by the Marine Stewardship Council in (A) 2010 and (B) 2011 to date. [45028]

**John Penrose:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not procure any seafood. It's agency, the Royal Parks procures 3000 kilos per annum of whiting to feed the pelicans in their parks. The whiting is sourced from a supplier based in Poole, Dorset, and is caught in a mixed trawl fishery using small day boat trawlers. Whiting is not on the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid.

The Department does not collate this information for its arm's length bodies.

### Employment

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will work with representatives of the creative industries to produce a joint action plan for jobs and growth in that sector by the end of 2011. [47576]

**Mr Jeremy Hunt:** The Government's strategy for growth, including measures to remove barriers to growth for the digital and creative industries, developed in consultation with industry, will be published to a Budget 2011 timetable.

## HEALTH

### Cancer: Health Services

**Owen Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to measure the one- and five-year cancer survival rates for breast, lung and colorectal cancer for patients of all ages in the improvement area of Domain 1 of the NHS Outcomes Framework for 2011-12. [47152]

**Paul Burstow:** The first "NHS Outcomes Framework 2011-12", published on 20 December 2010, sets out the outcomes and corresponding indicators that will be used to track the success of the national health service in delivering improved outcomes for one-year and five-year survival rates for breast, lung and colorectal cancers, for patients aged between 15-99 years. Existing data for cancer survival rates are published by the Office for National Statistics and can be accessed via the following link:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=14007

In "NHS Outcomes Framework 2011-12—Technical details of indicators", we summarised the sources of the data published in the framework, as well as technical information about all of the indicators.

### Departmental Public Appointments

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which public bodies sponsored by his Department *(a)* have been and *(b)* are to be closed, merged or reorganised following his appointment; and how many (i) women and (ii) men who are public appointees at each body will no longer hold such an appointment in consequence. [47103]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The coalition Government are committed to increasing the accountability of public bodies, and this involves reducing their number and their cost to the taxpayer. The proposals for the majority of bodies across all Departments were announced and published on 14 October 2010. An updated list reflecting changes since October 2010 has been published on the Cabinet Office website this month.

Summary information on public appointments is published annually by the Cabinet Office. This includes data on gender. Copies of the most recent report are available at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/ndpb

### Epilepsy: Totnes

**Dr Wollaston:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with epilepsy in *(a)* Totnes constituency, *(b)* South Devon and *(c)* England in each of the last 10 years. [47743]

**Paul Burstow:** The information requested has never been collected.

The national Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) records the number of people, aged 18 or over, recorded on practice disease registers who are receiving drug treatment for epilepsy. The register is not a count of patients newly diagnosed with the disease within each year but rather a count of patients receiving drug treatment for epilepsy on a specific day within the year. These data are available for the releases of QOF covering financial years 2005-06 through to 2009-10 at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/audits-and-performance/the-quality-and-outcomes-framework

### Heart Diseases: Children

**Stuart Andrew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which body will make the final decision on the Safe and Sustainable Review of Children's Congenital Cardiac Services in England; [47550]

(2) what professional expertise members of the body making the decision on the Safe and Sustainable Review of Children's Congenital Cardiac Services in England will be required to possess. [47551]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Once the public consultation has concluded, the decision on the future number and location of surgical centres in England will be made by the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts (JCPCT), on behalf of the local national health service commissioners.

The professional expertise required for membership of the JCPCT is that the members of the committee are either primary care trust chief executives or their nominated representatives. The JCPCT has been informed by a considerable amount of evidence from professional experts in the field, including from an advisory group of experts representing their professional associations. This advisory group was also responsible for developing the proposed quality standards against which the current surgical centres were assessed.

### Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

**Henry Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on prescription charges for gluten-free *(a)* food and *(b)* medication. [47271]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department's policy on prescription charges for gluten-free food and medication is the same as for other medicines. A patient will be liable to pay prescription charges on a national health service prescription for these products unless exemption arrangements apply.

## TRANSPORT

### Blue Badge Scheme

**Tom Blenkinsop:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the likely change in the number of blue badges issued for disabled parking as a result of the implementation of his proposed Blue Badges Reform programme. [41465]

**Norman Baker:** We have estimated that around 860,000 applications for blue badges were made in 2009-10, of which approximately 90,000 were rejected. We have estimated that our planned reforms will increase the number of rejected applications by between 17,000 and 51,000 in 2012-13. The number of rejected applications are estimated to continue to rise between 2% and 3% annually. The increase in rejected applications will be due to more robust eligibility assessments which will help ensure that badges go to those who need them most.

We have also estimated that there could be a potential increase in the number of blue badge holders of around 3,000 as a result of the proposed extensions to the eligibility criteria that I announced on 14 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 65-66WS.

### Departmental Pay

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to ensure that his published departmental organisational chart includes the names and responsibilities of all staff paid over £58,200 per annum in his Department and in the non-departmental public bodies and agencies for which he is responsible. [43538]

**Norman Baker:** The coalition Government are committed to improving transparency and the Coalition programme includes commitments to publish salary information for the most senior civil servants and to publish organograms for the entire organisation.

As a first step, the Government published the details of 345 senior officials in departments, agencies and non-departmental public bodies in post at 31 March 2010 whose rate of pay was £150,000 or more. Publication of name, job title and base salary details was then extended to some lower levels of the senior civil service (SCS) as part of the organograms that were published last October.

Although individualised salary details for the most junior level of the SCS (Pay Bands 1 and 1A) were not released, the numbers and grades of staff in each of their teams and the total salary costs of that team were published. Organograms will next be updated by the end of May to show structures as at 31 March 2011.

Good progress is being made across the civil service and beyond in improving transparency of how Government works and uses its resources. We are now in a period of consolidating and embedding transparency processes into business as usual. We are always looking to go further and we will continue over the coming months to review, and where necessary improve, the quality and extent of data being released.

### Departmental Procurement

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether all new contracts his Department has tendered over £10,000 have been published with associated tender documents on the Contracts Finder website since its inception. [39222]

**Norman Baker:** The Department for Transport has not published any new contracts on the Contract Finder website since its inception as none has been awarded that meets the criteria for publication.

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which procurement projects engaged in by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental public body and agency for which he is responsible had a designated senior responsible owner in the latest period for which figures are available; and on what date they were appointed in each such case. [45687]

**Norman Baker:** The Department for Transport (Central) has a robust approach to project management and the appointment of the Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) is embedded in that approach. The information on the date that each SRO was appointed is not held centrally.

This approach has also been taken by the British Transport Police Authority, Driving Standards Agency, Government Car and Despatch Agency, Highways Agency, Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Vehicle Certification Agency, Vehicle and Operator Services Agency, High Speed 2, Directly Operated Railways and Northern Lighthouse Board.

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has a designated senior responsible owner for each procurement project, but the information, as requested, is not available.

Passenger Focus has a robust approach to project management based, in a proportionate way, on the concepts set out in PRINCE2™ methodology. However, there are currently no procurement projects for which a Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) has been designated. Given the application of the SRO role to 'major government projects' only there have been no such designations in the period from July 2005 (when Passenger Focus was created).

The Renewable Fuels Agency adopts a robust approach to project management underpinned by adherence to central guidance on transparency and a financial scheme of delegation.

Trinity House adopts PRINCE2™ and has a project board, accountable to the Executive and Lighthouse Board. At the practical level, the project manager will take day-to-day responsibility.

This issue is not applicable to Cycling England or the Railway Heritage Committee.

### Roads

**Mr Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress his Department has made better to facilitate the adoption by local authorities of residential roads in new housing developments since June 2010. [45668]

**Norman Baker** *[holding answer 10 March 2011]:* Since I discussed these issues with the hon. Member in the Adjournment debate on 23 June 2010, a working group made up of a mix of local authorities has been formed to assist the Department for Transport in creating policy options. This group has just presented its findings and the Department is now considering the suggested policy options.

### Roads: Trans-European Networks

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on road pricing for the use of roads in Trans European Networks; and if he will make a statement. [45113]

**Mike Penning:** The Secretary of State for Transport has had discussions at the European Council of Ministers on the Eurovignette Directive, which sets the rules for countries that wish to introduce charging for heavy goods vehicles on the Trans European Network. Beyond that, the Secretary of State has had no discussions with his European Counterparts about road pricing on the Trans European Network.

### Taxis: Bus Lanes

**Mike Freer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to ensure that owners of private hire vehicles are able to transfer liability for penalties imposed for bus lane violations to the driver at the time of the offence; and if he will make a statement. [45313]

**Norman Baker:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 8 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 920W. It is a matter for the Mayor of London to decide whether to progress the hon. Member's suggestion.

### Traffic Lights: Repairs and Maintenance

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what requirements his Department places on highway authorities for repairs to traffic lights and lights at pedestrian crossings; within what time period they are required to undertake such repairs; and if he will make a statement. [46753]

**Norman Baker:** The Department for Transport does not issue any national guidance on the requirements to repair traffic and pedestrian lights within a specified period. This is a matter for the relevant local highway authority.

### Trams: Nottingham

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the projected capital costs to his Department of extending the Nottingham Tram are. [42315]

**Norman Baker:** The last approved Government contribution to the Nottingham tram extension scheme was a maximum of £530.7 million in the form of PFI credits. The Department is now working closely with the scheme promoter, Nottingham city council, to ensure the project is affordable, in accordance with the announcement made following the comprehensive spending review in October 2010.

## CABINET OFFICE

### BSkyB and News Corporation

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what meetings the Prime Minister's Director of Communications has had with representatives of *(a)* BSkyB and *(b)* News Corporation since his appointment; what the (i) date and (ii) purpose of each such meeting was; and if he will make a statement. [32807]

**Mr Maude:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Prime Minister on 3 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 885W.

### Departmental Rail Travel

**Mr Godsiff:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of civil servants in his Department are entitled to travel first class by rail within the UK. [46779]

**Mr Maude:** No Cabinet Office civil servants are entitled to travel by first class rail. In exceptional cases, e.g. for health reasons or where it is cheaper, staff at any grade may travel by first class rail, with prior approval from the travel manager.

### Jobseeker's Allowance: Berkshire

**Alok Sharma:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average duration of a jobseeker's allowance claim was in *(a)* Reading West constituency, *(b)* Reading and *(c)* Berkshire in each of the last 10 years. [46631]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the average duration of jobseeker's allowance claim was in (a) Reading West constituency, (b) Reading and (c) Berkshire in each of the last 10 years. (046631)

The number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) is taken from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. The length of a claim has been defined as the time between the start of an individual's claim and the count date in each reference month. Table 1 shows the median length of live claims for January of each of the last 10 years for those people resident in the, Reading and Berkshire areas. The figures for Reading West Constituency are provided from January 2005. Figures prior to this are not available for the parliamentary constituencies formed in the 2010 general election.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

www.nomisweb.co.uk

*Table 1: Median length of claims in weeks of jobseeker's allowance of persons[1] resident in Reading West constituency, Reading and Berkshire*

| *As at January each year* | *Reading West* | *Reading* | *Berkshire* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002 | [2]— | 11.5 | 11.2 |
| 2003 | [2]— | 14.5 | 14.2 |
| 2004 | [2]— | 18.4 | 18.4 |
| 2005 | 22.5 | 21.9 | 22.4 |
| 2006 | 20.8 | 21.7 | 19.5 |
| 2007 | 18.9 | 18.9 | 16.5 |
| 2008 | 13.8 | 15.0 | 12.5 |
| 2009 | 11.3 | 12.0 | 10.2 |
| 2010 | 18.3 | 19.3 | 16.1 |
| 2011 | 12.7 | 13.9 | 13.6 |

[1] Length of claim data is only available for computerised claims, which account for 99.7% of all claims.

[2] Data unavailable

*Source*:

Jobcentre Plus Administrative System

### Tech City East London

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what contribution his Department is making to the Prime Minister's initiative to create a Tech City in East London. [34561]

**Mr Maude:** The Government's input into the initiative comes under the policy responsibility of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for Business and Enterprise, my hon. Friend the Member for Hertford and Stortford (Mr Prisk), on 17 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 638W.

## DEFENCE

### Aircraft Carriers

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration he has given to the merits of equipping the aircraft carrier, the Prince of Wales, with catapults and traps to *(a)* make it compatible with JSF-35C and *(b)* increase its potential for future sales. [47824]

**Peter Luff:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1247W, to the right hon. Member for Coventry North East (Mr Ainsworth).

### Armed Forces: Redundancy

**Mr Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 1 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 21-2WS, on armed forces redundancy process, how many of the armed forces personnel to be made redundant have *(a)* noise-induced hearing loss and *(b)* other serious injuries or disabilities. [45969]

**Mr Robathan:** Those selected for redundancy have not yet been identified.

### Blue Force

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make arrangements for military lawyers and personnel in Afghanistan to provide legal assistance to members of HM Armed Forces who are customers of Blue Force Property and Blue Force Services. [41807]

**Mr Robathan:** As this is a matter between an individual and a private company, Ministry of Defence lawyers are unable to offer legal assistance. However, we have issued advice through the Chain of Command.

Those deployed on operations and who require assistance in resolving issues raised through the liquidation of BlueForce should approach their Chain of Command to request a welfare phone card. This will be provided at no cost and will facilitate them obtaining the necessary assistance.

### Commando Helicopter Force

**Mr David Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what he expects the complement of the Commando Helicopter Force to be in each of the next five years; [47143]

(2) what assessment he has made of the long-term viability of the Commando Helicopter Force; and if he will make a statement. [47144]

**Peter Luff:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for the Armed Forces, my hon. Friend the Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey) on 3 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 564W, to the right hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr Laws). As part of the Future Force 2020, the Strategic Defence and Security Review endorsed the Commando Helicopter Force as a key component of Littoral Manoeuvre Tailored Air Group and confirmed its requirement. In addition to Littoral Manoeuvre, the force supports Maritime Counter Terrorism and Land Operations.

To ensure the longer term viability of the Commando Helicopter Force, it is intended to transfer the Royal Air Force Merlin helicopters Mk3/3a to the Royal Navy and to undertake a ship optimisation program to MK4/4a in order to provide embarked medium lift capability for Littoral Manoeuvre. The Commando Helicopter Force will also receive a small number of Battlefield Wildcat (Army) helicopters to replace the Lynx Mk7/9a.

### Defence: Procurement

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which procurement projects engaged upon by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental public body and agency for which he is responsible had a designated senior responsible owner in the latest period for which figures are available; and on what date each officer was appointed in each such case. [45556]

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many senior responsible owners have been designated within his Department; and to which project each is assigned. [46302]

**Peter Luff** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* Senior responsible owners (SROs) for the Ministry of Defence's (MOD)'s most significant business change and military capability programmes are formally appointed and are responsible to the Defence Board as their Sponsoring Group. These designated SROs are personally appointed by MOD's Permanent Under-Secretary. A table detailing the appointments made since this policy was introduced in 2005 has been placed in the Library of the House.

The policy does not distinguish between the MOD and its agencies, and has not been applied to its trading funds or non-departmental public bodies. The table shows appointments for both military capability and business change programmes and projects, the majority of which include procurement elements (for example, the procurement of information systems or building works in the case of business change programmes).

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the maximum value is of a project which may be authorised by an official of his Department without seeking ministerial consent; and what the largest such project was in the last three years. [47403]

**Peter Luff** *[holding answer 17 March 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence (MOD) primarily categorises projects by type and level of investment required. The largest projects that may be approved by senior officials are category B projects, the value of which depends on the type of project as shown in the following table:

| *Type of project* | *Category B value (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| Equipment | 100-400 |
| Information system-enabled business change | 50-100 |
| Estates | 50-100 |
| Service provision | 200-400 |
| In-service support | 200-400 |

The authority to approve category B projects is delegated to a senior committee of representatives of the investment approvals board. These thresholds for approval have been set based on the level of delegated authority from the Treasury, the volume of projects at each level and the need to optimise the level of scrutiny.

However, since April 2009, all projects valued at over £100 million have also required the approval of the Treasury at either official or ministerial level. Any projects that require the approval of the Chief Secretary to the Treasury are first approved by Ministers at the MOD.

The highest value project to have been approved by senior officials in the last three years was a project to provide in-service support to refurbish HMS Vigilant. This was approved in October 2008 at a value of £372 million.

### Regulation

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what regulations his Department repealed between 1 February 2011 and 28 February 2011. [45984]

**Mr Robathan:** On 28 February 2011, the Ministry of Defence laid before Parliament the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces (Compensation Scheme) Order 2011 (SI 2011/517). The purpose of this Order was to revoke and re-enact the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces (Compensation Scheme) Order 2005 (SI 2005/439), with modifications incorporating the recommendations of the Review of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme by Admiral the Lord Boyce which had been laid before Parliament in February 2010 (Cm 7798). Together with the original 2005 Order, a further seven Orders relating to the Scheme made between 2006 and 2010 were revoked by this new Order.

### Ex-Servicemen: Long-term Care

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to ensure the provision of long-term care for former service personnel who are injured while in service. [38982]

**Mr Robathan:** The Ministry of Defence continues to work with other bodies including the UK Department of Health, to ensure the successful transition of health care support as personnel move from service to civilian life. Recent steps include the development of the Army Recovery Capability, and the implementation of the recommendations of my hon. Friend, the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) in the area of mental health care.

### Gurkhas

**Mr Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Gurkhas serving in the Army have sustained noise-induced hearing loss in each of the last five years. [45968]

**Mr Robathan:** Prior to 2010, the Ministry of Defence does not hold information on the number of UK armed forces personnel medically downgraded as a result of 'noise-induced' hearing loss and these data could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

From 2010 the figures for Gurkhas serving in the armed forces who have been assessed with impaired/poor hearing are shown in the following table:

| | Number of trained and serving Gurkhas | Number of Gurkhas who have received impaired/poor hearing assessments |
|---|---|---|
| 2010 | 3,730 | 93 |
| 2011 | 3,710 | 114 |

For the period 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2009, there were no Gurkhas medically discharged with a principal reason of noise-induced hearing loss.

### Harrier Aircraft: Redundancy

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any pilots have been made redundant as a result of the deletion of the Harrier fleet. [47607]

**Mr Robathan:** No.

### Military Aircraft

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many AWACS aircraft are declared ready for operations; and at what level of readiness such aircraft are held; [47753]

(2) how many Typhoon squadrons are declared ready for operations; and at what level of readiness such aircraft are held. [47755]

**Nick Harvey:** There are currently three operationally declared Typhoon squadrons and one flight. There are six AWACS aircraft declared for operations.

I am withholding information on the level of readiness as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability and effectiveness of the armed forces.

### RAF Leuchars

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 70W, on the Air Force: military bases, what the cost to the public purse was of the work at RAF Leuchars classified as redevelopment. [46210]

**Peter Luff:** The question refers to work scheduled as part of the annual planning round in 2010. No costs have been incurred on redevelopment in 2010-11 and I refer the right hon. and learned Member to the answer given by the Minister for the Armed Forces, my hon. Friend the Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey), on 7 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 25W.

### Squatting

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many buildings on his Department's estate were occupied by squatters in each year between 2006 and 2010; and on how many occasions his Department sought interim possession orders to remove squatters from such buildings in each of those years. [47659]

**Peter Luff:** This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Strategic Defence and Security Review

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the strategic defence and security review what steps he has taken to enhance simulated training to produce a more efficient and cost-effective training environment. [45908]

**Nick Harvey:** The Ministry of Defence has instigated the Defence Training Systems and Infrastructure (DTS&I) Change Programme to transform the Department's approach to training through greater use of simulation and synthetic systems. This will improve the readiness and effectiveness of the UK armed forces and significantly reduce the cost of training. DTS&I is working closely with the Front Line Commands to identify the most appropriate mix of live and synthetic systems.

### Trident Submarines

**Jake Berry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on which occasions each Minister of State in his Department has been present to welcome returning submariners following a tour of duty of a Vanguard-class submarine in the last 15 years. [47315]

**Dr Fox:** Centralised records have only been held since December 2004 and information prior to then could only be provided at disproportionate cost. However, since December 2004, the following visits by Ministers of State have been undertaken to welcome returning Vanguard Class submarines from deterrent patrol:

November 2005 Minister for Defence Procurement (The Lord Drayson)

February 2006 Minister for the Armed Forces (The hon. Adam Ingram)

June 2007 Secretary of State for Defence (The right hon. Des Browne)

October 2009 Secretary of State for Defence (The right hon. Bob Ainsworth)

June 2010 Minister for the Armed Forces (The hon. Nick Harvey)

November 2010 Secretary of State for Defence (The right hon. Dr Liam Fox).

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Animal Experiments: Inspections

**Henry Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many inspectors the Animals Scientific Procedures Inspectorate employed in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and how many she expects it to employ in (i) 2011 and (ii) 2012. [47272]

**Lynne Featherstone:** The number of individual Animal Scientific Procedures Inspectors employed to contribute to the inspection process in each of the following years was:

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2008 | 28 |
| 2009 | 27 |
| 2010 | 27 |

I am not in a position to predict figures for the future number of inspectors. However, we are committed to continue to match resources to deliver the appropriate outcomes of the inspection process.

**Henry Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many inspections the Animals Scientific Procedures Inspectorate made in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and how many she expects it to make in (i) 2011 and (ii) 2012. [47273]

**Lynne Featherstone:** The following number of visits to places where scientific work on animals was conducted was made by the Animals Scientific Procedures Inspectors.

| | *Visits* |
|---|---|
| 2008 | 2,088 |
| 2009 | 1,994 |
| 2010 | 1,984 |

I am not in a position to estimate future numbers of inspections by the Home Office inspectors. The inspectorate will continue to take a risk-based approach to the planning and execution of the inspection programme.

European Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes is to be implemented in United Kingdom legislation on 1 January 2013. A detailed assessment of the impact of its provisions including those relating to inspections is under way and will in due course be included in a public consultation on options for transposition.

We are weighing up the implications of the various requirements of the directive with a view to seeking views in the public consultation. We plan to reach firm decisions on the way forward before the summer recess after considering the responses on this and other issues.

### Courts: Closures

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has had discussions with the Secretary of State for Justice on the effects of proposed court closures on the time taken by police officers to *(a)* search for and *(b)* transport to court individuals who have failed to attend court. [45808]

**Nick Herbert:** My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is in regular discussion with the Secretary of State for Justice on issues relating to criminal justice efficiency. We are working to develop a package of reforms that will make the whole criminal justice system more efficient, including reducing the time and effort currently spent transporting people and paperwork around the system.

There is no evidence to suggest that travel distance to court is a significant cause of defendants failing to appear. We expect defendants to attend court when summoned, and if defendants fail to appear at court guidance is in place that obliges the court to consider proceeding in their absence. Wilful failure to attend court can be a criminal offence. The Criminal Justice System (CJS) agencies have worked together to ensure defendants get to court and we expect that to continue.

We believe that better planning of court activities in fewer and larger court centres will result in regular users such as the police making fewer journeys to court overall.

### Domestic Violence

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has put in place targets in respect of police response to domestic violence cases. [47421]

**Lynne Featherstone:** There are no central targets in place in relation to the police response to domestic violence. Local areas may, of course, set their own targets in consultation with partners.

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Guidance on Investigating Domestic Abuse provides the police service with clear information about the policing of domestic violence and provides operational, tactical and strategic advice.

### Independent Safeguarding Authority

**Mr Blunkett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions in the last 12 months the Independent Safeguarding Authority has used its powers under the Policing and Crime Act 2009 to provide information to the police. [47184]

**Lynne Featherstone** *[holding answer 17 March 2011]:* The Policing and Crime Act 2009 amended the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 to include section 50A which allows the Independent Safeguarding Authority to provide any information it has to a Chief Officer of Police for use in connection with:

(a) the prevention, detection and investigation of crime;

(b) the apprehension and prosecution of offenders.

Between 1 March 2010 and 28 February 2011 the Independent Safeguarding Authority responded to 226 enquiries from the police under section 50(A). In addition, the Independent Safeguarding Authority has proactively disclosed information to the police on 14 occasions and provided 184 evidence packs under section 50A.

**Mr Blunkett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been barred from regulated activity relating to children by the Independent Safeguarding Authority who have not been subject to investigation or prosecution by police forces. [47185]

**Lynne Featherstone** *[holding answer 17 March 2011]:* Between 1 March 2010 and 28 February 2011 the Independent Safeguarding Authority used its discretionary powers to bar 109 people on the children's list for whom they held no record of a police investigation or prosecution taking place.

**Mr Blunkett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been barred from regulated activity relating to children by the Independent Safeguarding Authority who have not received a relevant criminal conviction. [47186]

**Lynne Featherstone** *[holding answer 17 March 2011]:* Relevant offences are set out in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (Prescribed Criteria and Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2009. Where a person accepts a caution or is convicted of a relevant offence, the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) is legally required to place them on the barred list relating to children and/or vulnerable adults (automatic barring).

Between 1 March 2010 and 28 February 2011, the ISA used its discretionary powers to bar 248 people from regulated activity on the children's list. Of these, 81 had been convicted and two had accepted cautions for offences which had not led to automatic barring. The ISA holds no record of any conviction or caution for the remaining 165 individuals who were barred under discretionary powers.

### Police

**Yvette Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to publish the report into police leadership commissioned from Peter Neyroud. [45460]

**Mrs May** *[holding answer 10 March 2011]:* I will publish the report soon and will consult on it.

### Vetting

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when *(a)* schools, *(b)* children's activities providers, *(c)* service providers for vulnerable adults and *(d)* care homes will be required to obtain (i) a standard Criminal Records Bureau check and (ii) an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check on a potential employee (voluntary or otherwise); when they will be able to exercise discretion in obtaining (A) a standard Criminal Records Bureau check and (B) an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check following implementation of proposals in the Protection of Freedoms Bill. [46817]

**Lynne Featherstone:** Criminal records disclosure arrangements provide eligibility to obtain Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks rather than a requirement to do so, for posts covered by the Exceptions Order to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. Eligibility for enhanced criminal records certificates are determined by regulations made under the Police Act 1997 and are normally available for those working closely with children or vulnerable adults.

The decision to request a CRB check is made by the body recruiting the individual, subject to statutory requirements and any sector specific guidance. A number of regulations applying in the health and education sectors require criminal records checks to be undertaken.

Measures in the Protection of Freedoms Bill will not change these arrangements but will introduce a legal requirement for a barred list check to be made on persons entering regulated activity, which may be done by obtaining an enhanced criminal records check.

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to enable *(a)* schools, *(b)* providers of young people's services and *(c)* providers of services to vulnerable adults to gain access to the non-criminal information held by the Independent Safeguarding Authority on potential employees conducting non-regulated activities. [46818]

**Lynne Featherstone:** Non-regulated activity is not subject to the barring regime and there is no power for the Independent Safeguarding Authority to provide such information. We have no plans to introduce such arrangements.

The provision of this information may be seen as disproportionate to the purposes of the barring regime and in breach of article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

**Jack Lopresti:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to permit the sharing of the outcome of Criminal Records Bureau checks in cases where a similar body has carried out a recent check. [47800]

**Lynne Featherstone:** The decision to request a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) certificate is made in line with each organisation's own internal recruitment policies and any sector specific legislation that governs them. A CRB certificate can be used for more than one position but the decision whether to accept a 'ported' certificate is made by the organisation and not the CRB.

The Government have commissioned an independent review into the criminal records regime and a number of recommendations have been made, which should ultimately reduce the need for an individual to obtain multiple CRB checks:

The Protection of Freedoms Bill, which was introduced in Parliament in February, contains provisions to allow for a system of up-dating for CRB certificates. The provisions allow that any individual applying for a CRB certificate can apply to be part of an up-dating service. This would allow an applicant to authorise employers to make a check of the service to identify whether any "new" information was known that would appear on a certificate, should one be issued.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### English Language: Education

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what equality impact assessment he has commissioned in respect of the proposed changes to English for Speakers of Other Languages funding for adults; and when he plans to make that assessment available to the House. [47754]

**Mr Hayes:** The equality impact assessment published alongside "Skills for Sustainable Growth (November 2010)" found that, at the aggregate level, there are unlikely to be disproportionate impacts on protected groups. A separate assessment of how the changes may affect ESOL learners is currently being carried out by the Department. I expect to be able to publish the assessment in due course.

### Entry Clearances: India

**Mr Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2011, *Official Report*, column711W, on entry clearances: India, what the maximum number of such natural persons is that could be admitted to the UK each year in accordance with any such EU-India Free Trade Agreement; and what minimum salary would be required of them. [47859]

**Mr Prisk:** The EU-India Free Trade Agreement is still under negotiation. In those categories of natural person where numbers may be limited in the agreement, no decisions on numbers have been finalised.

We expect the agreement to be consistent with the Government's intention to apply a £40,000 minimum salary requirement to intra-company transferees coming to the UK for more than 12 months.

### Higher Education: Finance

**Mr Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to which institutions capital grants have been made from the *(a)* Strategic Development Fund and *(b)* University Modernisation Fund to date; and what the monetary value of each such grant was. [47860]

**Mr Willetts** *[holding answer 18 March 2011]*: The projects approved by the Higher Education Funding Council for England through the Strategic Development Fund are published by the council on its website at:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/finance/fundinghe/sdf/projects_aug10.xls

I will place a copy in the Libraries of the House. The University Modernisation Fund does not have a capital element.

### Video Games: Sales

**Hazel Blears:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many British-made video games were sold worldwide in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008, *(c)* 2009 and *(d)* 2010; [46882]

(2) how many British-made video games were sold in the UK in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008, *(c)* 2009 and (d) 2010; [46883]

(3) what proportion of video games sold in the UK video games industry were British-made in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008, *(c)* 2009 and *(d)* 2010. [46884]

**Mr Vaizey:** My Department does not collect sales figures for video games. However, in 2010:

10,913,984 units of UK developed games were sold in the UK;

UK developed games accounted for 17.4% of the total number of games sold in the UK.

These figures are for physical boxed product sales at retail.

*Source:*

UKIE Games Chart, compiled by GFK Chart-Track

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### British Overseas Territories: Overseas Aid

**Ms Harman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's bilateral aid he plans to allocate to British Overseas Territories from 2011-12 to 2014-15. [47653]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** Aid allocations for the British Overseas Territories are currently being finalised as part of DFID's operational plans. These plans will be published in April.

The Overseas Territories are a first call on the aid budget, as stipulated by the 2002 International Development Act.

The Government intend to bring all aspects of the Government's policies on the Overseas Territories together in a new White Paper in the course of the year ahead. We will want to consult widely on this. The strategy will be discussed across Government through the National Security Council and the House will be updated once this is complete.

### Departmental Public Bodies

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which public bodies sponsored by his Department *(a)* have been and *(b)* are to be closed, merged or reorganised following his appointment; and how many (i) women and (ii) men who are public appointees at each body will no longer hold such an appointment in consequence. [47102]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** In my written statement to the House on 12 October 2010, *Official Report,* column 14-16WS, I set out my intention to reconfigure CDC Group plc in order radically to increase its development impact. I informed that House that my Department would commission independent studies and a public consultation on CDC as part of a process of review. The consultation report and summaries of three of the independent studies have already been published on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

I shall make a further announcement in the coming months and CDC will reflect the necessary changes in the business plan which they will publish in the spring. CDC is a public limited company in which Her Majesty's Government is the 100% shareholder.

### International Labour Organisation: Expenditure

**Ms Harman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development to which International Labour Organisation projects and programmes his Department provided funding in the last four years. [47652]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Department for International Development (DFID) provided a total of £17.05 million to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) over the past four years under a central partnership agreement. This partnership agreement ended in March 2010 and was not renewed. DFID has also funded some ILO projects and programmes through bilateral country programmes. DFID is not able to provide a full list of all projects and programmes supported without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Lesotho: Overseas Aid

**Nick Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development for what reason he has decided to reduce the level of his Department's aid to Lesotho; what account he took of the relative gross domestic product per head of Lesotho in making his decision; and if he will make a statement. [47142]

**Mr Duncan:** The Department for International Development (DFID) bilateral programme to Lesotho, which last year totalled £3.7 million, represents a small fraction of Lesotho's overall aid. Our experience is that such small programmes often struggle to achieve sufficient impact.

Lesotho is classed as a lower middle income country based on its gross national income per head. Even without the DFID bilateral programme, Lesotho will continue to receive more aid per person than most African countries, including some which are far poorer than Lesotho in income terms. DFID will continue to provide around £10 million to Lesotho each year through the EU, World Bank, debt relief and international non-governmental organisations.

### Overseas Aid

**Ms Harman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in which year his Department's bilateral aid programme with Angola will close; what arrangements he has made for phasing in the closure of that programme; what discussions he held with the government of Angola prior to his decision on the future of the programme; and what proportion of the official development assistance received by Angola his Department's bilateral aid comprised in the latest period for which figures are available. [47651]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Department for International Development's (DFID's) bilateral aid programme with Angola will close on 31 March 2011. The decision was taken in early 2008 to gradually close the programme over three years. This was communicated at the time to the Government of Angola. This decision was confirmed by the coalition Government under the Bilateral Aid Review. No projects have been closed earlier than planned.

In 2008, the last year for which data is available, the World Bank reports that Angola received a total of $368,820,000 in Official Development Assistance (ODA). Of this total, DFID bilateral aid comprised £3.27 million (approximately $5.26 million) or 1.4% of the total.

### Pakistan: Females

**Valerie Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* projects and *(b)* organisations to assist women and girls his Department funded in Pakistan in the latest period for which figures are available. [47118]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The UK Government are committed to placing women at the heart of our agenda for international development. All the Department for International Development's (DFID's) programmes take account of their impact on women and girls in their design and implementation.

DFID has supported a number of programmes that directly benefit girls' and women's organisations and activities in Pakistan over recent years. For example, DFID's support to the United Nations Development Programme Gender Justice and Protection Programme has, since March 2007, helped 6,000 women victims of violence by providing them with counselling and legal aid. Our support to Oxfam GB (2008-13) is promoting the rights and capacity of poor women to engage effectively in governance at all levels in a number of countries including Pakistan. DFID is also supporting the microfinance sector to serve an additional 1.5 million poor people, over half of which will be women.

The most up to date information on all of our projects in Pakistan is published online on DFID's Project Database, available at

http://projects.dfid.gov.uk

## WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how much the Government Equalities Office has spent on *(a)* salaries and *(b)* pension entitlements for special advisers in the financial year 2010-11 to date. [46577]

**Lynne Featherstone:** The Government Equalities Office is not responsible for the salary and pension payments of special advisers in 2010-11.

### Departmental Procurement

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many procurement projects with a monetary value greater than *(a)* £10 million, *(b)* £50 million and *(c)* £100 million the Government Equalities Office was engaged upon in the latest period for which figures are available. [45563]

**Lynne Featherstone:** The Government Equalities Office has not engaged in any projects valued at £10 million and above.

### Equality and Human Rights Commission: Pay

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 18W, on the Equality and Human Rights Commission: pay, what the average salary was of employees of the Equality and Human Rights Commission who were *(a)* white and *(b)* non-disabled as at 31 March 2010. [45235]

**Lynne Featherstone:** The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is an arm's length body; the following is based on information it has provided.

Based on the salaries of EHRC employees as at 31 March 2010 (the most recent information available) the average annual salaries of the employee groups requested are as follows:

*(a)* White: £35,800

*(b)* Non-disabled: £35,400.

## JUSTICE

### Employment and Support Allowance: Appeals

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many appeals against decisions made on applications for employment and support allowance are outstanding in *(a)* Wrexham, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Great Britain. [47863]

**Mr Djanogly:** There are always a number of 'live' appeals in the First tier Tribunal—Social Security and Child Support (SSCS) progressing through the stages of receipt, decision and promulgation. The number of live employment support allowance appeals in the UK up to 31 January 2011, the most recent period for which statistics have been published, was 87,700. This number was recorded on 31 January but was not broken down by geographical area. It is not possible to identify how many of these live appeals were in Wrexham and Wales.

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of time taken is to determine an appeal for employment and support allowance. [47864]

**Mr Djanogly:** The average length of time taken to determine an appeal for employment support allowance was 22.51 weeks as of 31 January 2011. This is the most recent period for which statistics have been published.

### Social Security Benefits: Appeals

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how long on average it took the Tribunals Service to administer a First-Tier Tribunal social security and child support appeal in 2009-10; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figure for 2010-11. [47545]

**Mr Djanogly:** The following table provides information on the average length of time taken to determine an appeal from receipt to promulgation for the First-tier Tribunal—Social Security and Child Support in 2009-10 and year to date up to 31 January 2011. This is the most recent period for which statistics are available.

*Average number of weeks taken to administer social security and child support appeals*

| | *Average number of weeks* |
|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 14.34 |
| 2010-11 to 31 January 2011[1] | 18.98 |

[1] April 2010 to 31 January 2011.

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many appeals regarding *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* employment support allowance, *(c)* income support, *(d)* jobseeker's allowance and *(e)* tax credits the Tribunals Service heard in 2009-10; and how many such appeals in each category he expects it to hear in 2010-11; [47546]

**Mr Djanogly:** The following table provides information on the number of appeal hearings for the First-tier Tribunal—Social Security and Child Support regarding *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* employment support allowance, *(c)* income support, *(d)* jobseekers allowance and *(e)* tax credits in 2009-10 and year to date up to 31 January 2011. This is the most recent period for which statistics are available.

*Total number of cases disposed of and heard by the First-tier Tribunal-Social Security and Child Support*

| | *2009-10* | *2010-11 to 31 January 2011*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| *Number of disposed of cases*[2] | | |
| Disability living allowance | 65,400 | 52,300 |
| Employment support allowance | 70,500 | 139,500 |
| Income support | 17,700 | 12,800 |
| Job seekers allowance | 28,800 | 33,100 |
| Tax credits | 1,400 | 2,200 |
| All social security and child support | 279,300 | 302,700 |
| *Number of cases disposed of at hearing:* | | |
| Disability living allowance | 52,400 | 72,600 |
| Employment support allowance | 50,800 | 99,900 |
| Income support | 11,800 | 8,500 |
| Job seekers allowance | 17,500 | 20,800 |
| Tax credits | 900 | 1,300 |
| All social security and child support | 207,600 | 219,400 |

[1] April to 31 January 2011.
[2] Non hearing clearances including strike out and withdrawals.
*Note:*
Figures may not add totals because of rounding

### Squatters

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many buildings on his Department's estate were occupied by squatters in each year between 2006 and 2010; and on how many occasions his Department sought interim possession orders to remove squatters from such buildings in each of those years. [47661]

**Mr Blunt:** One building owned by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) was twice occupied by squatters in 2009 and interim possession orders sought to remove them on both occasions. Other than these, there have been no squatters in MoJ buildings.

### Tribunals Service

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to increase capacity at the Tribunals Service in order to reduce the backlog of appeals awaiting hearing. [47543]

**Mr Djanogly:** The largest three jurisdictions within the Tribunals Service, Social Security and Child Support, Immigration and Asylum and Employment Tribunals accounted for 92% of receipts for the business year 2009-10.

The Tribunals Service has continued to respond strongly to the significant increase in appeal cases received the

First-tier Tribunal—Social Security and Child Support (SSCS). There are always a number of 'live' appeals in SSCS progressing through the stages of receipt, decision and promulgation. This is not the same as a backlog. As the volumes of SSCS receipts have increased, so has the capacity of the Tribunals Service to deal with them. It is increasing its capacity through the recruitment of additional staff, judicial medical tribunal members as well as a range of business improvements. The Statistical Notice[3] published on 11 March shows that there has been a 36% increase in the number of disposals by this jurisdiction from 222,300 in April 2009-January 2010, to 302,700 in April 2010-January 2011. As the Tribunals Service continues to bring additional resources on line, we expect the outstanding caseload to fall and reduce waiting times for tribunal hearings.

The First-tier Tribunal Immigration and Asylum Chamber (FTTIAC) has reduced its work in hand by 43% since March 2009 and it stands at 50,300 at the end of quarter two this year. This is the lowest it has been since the inception of the Asylum and Immigration tribunal in 2005.

The work load in employment tribunals is also high, with 442,700 'live' cases in the system at the end of September 2010[1]. A large majority of this total consist of multiple cases. Multiple cases are where two or more people bring cases, usually against a single employer but not necessarily so and always arising out of the same or very similar circumstances. The Tribunals Service counts each person involved as a separate claim but they represent a very much smaller number of cases proceeding through the system. However, the rate of disposals also remains high; in the last complete financial year—2009-10—over 112,000 claims were disposed of, an increase of 22% on the previous year[2]. In addition, a range of initiatives have been introduced to deal with the cases that remain. Innovations have included evening sittings at tribunals, piloting ACAS officer involvement at interlocutory hearings to help facilitate earlier resolution between the parties, variations in the listing and case management procedure, and developments of the judicial mediation. The Government are also currently consulting on a range of proposals that will help to streamline the employment tribunal system still further.

*Sources:*

[1] TS Quarterly Statistics, Q2, 2010/11. See Table 1.3 at page 31.

[2] TS ET and EAT statistics 2009/10. See page 3.

[3] Available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/15355.htm

### Tribunals Service: Universal Credit

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have had with the Department for Work and Pensions on the likely effects of the introduction of universal credit on the workload of the Tribunals Service. [47544]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Tribunals Service and Department for Work and Pensions have been working closely together to manage demands on tribunals and the capacity of tribunals to deal with increased workloads. Regular discussions will continue in planning for the likely effects of the introduction of universal credit on the workload of the Tribunals Service.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Lyn Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will investigate reports of Afghan security forces freeing Taliban prisoners for payment or political motives. [47791]

**Alistair Burt:** The investigation of allegation of wrongdoing by Afghan National Security Forces is a matter for the Government of Afghanistan. We would expect them to carry out such investigations fully and promptly.

### China: Politics and Government

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will raise with his Chinese counterpart the treatment in that country of non-Chinese journalists working for *(a)* UK and *(b)* non-UK news organisations. [47238]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** We are aware of reports of violence and intimidation of foreign journalists in China. We take this very seriously and have consistently urged the authorities to respect the rights of foreign journalists to report freely in China without fear of violence or any form of intimidation. We have raised these concerns with the Chinese authorities both bilaterally in London and in Beijing and in conjunction with our EU partners and will continue to do so.

We believe that greater openness to the international media is strongly in China's own interests.

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will raise with his Chinese counterpart the treatment in that country of Chinese nationals working for non-Chinese news organisations. [47239]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** We are aware of reports that Chinese nationals with links to overseas media groups have been subjected to pressure.

We have consistently raised the treatment of foreign media working in China with the Chinese authorities both bilaterally in London and Beijing and in conjunction with EU partners.

We oppose any form of pressure on or intimidation towards foreign media by Chinese authorities to influence their reporting. We have consistently called on the Chinese authorities to observe their obligations on human rights under international law, including on freedom of speech, and will continue to do so.

### Council of Europe

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the contribution of the UK to the Council of Europe. [47799]

**Mr Lidington:** The UK was a founder member of the Council of Europe (CoE) in 1949 and has always been at the forefront of the CoE's work, including in its Parliamentary Assembly and its Congress of Local and Regional Authorities. We believe that the CoE's activity should focus on its core values: protection and promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Our forthcoming Chairmanship of the CoE's Committee of Ministers, from November 2011 to May 2012, will be an opportunity for us to pursue activities and reforms which emphasise these values.

### Departmental Manpower

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy has been on the collection of information on the educational background of its staff in the last 20 years. [47748]

**Alistair Burt:** We have not had, and do not have, a policy on the collection of information on the educational background of Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff.

The FCO aims to recruit a talented and diverse workforce that reflects the society we serve. Our recruitment policies are designed to encourage applications from the widest possible range of backgrounds. All external recruitment into the FCO is based on merit, and all campaigns must be fair and open.

### Regulation

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what regulations his Department introduced between 9 and 28 February 2011. [47046]

**Alistair Burt:** Regulations are a specific type of statutory instrument. They are very rarely sponsored by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office sponsored the following Order in Council, between 9 and 28 February 2011:

The Air Navigation (Overseas Territories) (Amendment) Order 2011 (date made: 9 February 2011).

### Iceland: EU Accession

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on Iceland's accession to the EU; and if he will make a statement. [47858]

**Mr Lidington:** The Government fully support Iceland's accession to the EU. We look forward to welcoming Iceland into the EU once it has met the required criteria. The Commission has begun to produce screening reports on individual chapters of Iceland's accession negotiations. These are currently being discussed in the Council's Enlargement Working Group. We anticipate that negotiations on fisheries and the environment (including whaling) will be challenging. We believe that the accession process is the most effective way to influence Iceland to align with the EU position in these areas.

### Iran: Nuclear Power

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the Iranian nuclear programme; what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the government of Israel, *(b)* the Palestinian Authority, *(c)* the government of Egypt, *(d)* the Arab League, *(e)* the government of Jordan, *(f)* his EU counterparts and *(g)* the United Nations Secretary General on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [47696]

**Alistair Burt:** We, and our E3+3 partners, are gravely concerned by the Iranian nuclear programme. The latest report from the International Atomic Energy Agency highlights the lack of Iranian transparency over a range of outstanding concerns, including possible military dimensions to their programme. It shows that Iran is enriching uranium in defiance of UN Security Council Resolutions, and has produced 3,606kg of 3.5% and 43.6kg of 20% low enriched uranium.

We have regular discussions with Israel, all countries in the Arab League, as well as EU and UN counterparts on this issue.

### Iran: Prisoners

**Mike Freer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will seek information from the Iranian Government on the detention of Dr Frood Fouladvand. [47292]

**Alistair Burt:** We have asked the Iranian authorities for information on the whereabouts and situation of Dr Fouladvand on a number of occasions, but they claim to have no knowledge of him. We shall continue to monitor this case.

### Iran: Sanctions

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Arab League on the Iranian sanctions programme; what response was received; and if he will make a statement. [R] [47689]

**Alistair Burt:** We, and our E3+3 partners, are gravely concerned by the Iranian nuclear programme. We continue to pursue a diplomatic solution to the issue, through the dual track policy of pressure and engagement. We regularly discuss this with a range of international partners including those in the Arab League.

### Iran: Terrorism

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of Iranian involvement with terrorist proxies; what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the government of Israel, *(b)* the Palestinian Authority, *(c)* the Government of Egypt, *(d)* the Arab League, *(e)* the Government of Jordan, *(f)* his EU counterparts and *(g)* the United Nations Secretary General on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [R] [47691]

**Alistair Burt:** We continue to monitor closely Iranian support to Hezbollah, Hamas, Palestinian rejectionist groups and Iraqi militia groups. We are gravely concerned by the latest evidence that Iran continues to supply the Taleban with weaponry.

We have consistently stressed the negative impact this behaviour has on stability in the region. We regularly discuss this issue with a range of international partners.

### Middle East: Armed Conflict

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the killing on 11 March of the Fogel family in Itamar; and if he will make a statement. [47701]

**Alistair Burt:** We are aware of widespread press reports on this issue. We understand investigations are ongoing. As the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs said in his statement of 12 March 2011:

> "This was an act of incomprehensible cruelty and brutality which I utterly condemn. We hope the perpetrator is swiftly brought to justice."

### Morocco: Politics and Government

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the government of Morocco. [45322]

**Mr Hague:** I met the Moroccan Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation Taieb Fassi-Fihri in London on 10 March 2011 and discussed a range of bilateral issues as well as the impact of regional unrest on Morocco's reform agenda.

The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the hon. Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt), visited Morocco in December 2010, where he discussed a broad range of issues with several senior representatives of the Government of Morocco. He also spoke to Mr Fassi-Fihri by telephone on 15 February 2011 to discuss the recent unrest across North Africa.

Officials in Rabat engage in regular discussions with their Moroccan counterparts.

### Somalia: Piracy

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK nationals he estimates are being held hostage by Somali pirates. [47091]

**Alistair Burt:** We are not aware that any British nationals are currently held hostage by Somali pirates.

### Southern African Development Community

**Stephen Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) on the role of the SADC in monitoring progress towards the 24 goals in the Global Political Agreement in Zimbabwe. [47873]

**Mr Bellingham:** We fully support the crucial role of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) as guarantor of the Global Political Agreement (GPA). We welcome the committed leadership of President Zuma of South Africa in securing a roadmap to credible and properly monitored elections in Zimbabwe.

There has been some progress since the formation of the Government of National Unity, but this has been primarily on the economic front. A number of key provisions in the GPA remain unimplemented. My ministerial team and I speak regularly to SADC counterparts. We take every opportunity to stress the importance of seeing the reforms through to completion and to raise our concerns about the current deterioration of political freedoms in Zimbabwe.

### USA: Cotton

**Justin Tomlinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the US government on the abolition of American cotton subsidies; and if he will make a statement. [46767]

**Alistair Burt:** My noble Friend Lord Brittan raised this issue with the US Ambassador to the UK, Louis Susman, on 7 February 2011.

### Western Sahara: Human Rights

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) whether he discussed human rights monitoring in Western Sahara during his recent meeting with his Moroccan counterpart; [47256]

(2) whether he discussed democratic reform and the referendum on self-determination in Western Sahara during his recent meeting with his Moroccan counterpart. [47257]

**Alistair Burt:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, discussed a range of bilateral issues and recent proposals by King Mohammed VI for constitutional reform. Mr Fassi Fihri also raised the issue of the Moroccan Autonomy plan for Western Sahara and proposals for a new National Council of Human Rights. We remain engaged in discussions at the UN and bilaterally about the situation in Western Sahara, including independent verification of the human rights situation and the wider human dimension of the conflict.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Departmental Public Bodies

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Prime Minister which public bodies to which he makes appointments *(a)* have been and *(b)* are to be closed, merged or reorganised following his appointment; and how many (i) women and (ii) men who are public appointees at each body will no longer hold such an appointment in consequence. [47099]

**The Prime Minister:** The Government are committed to increasing the accountability of public bodies, and this involves reducing their number and their cost to the taxpayer. The proposals for the majority of bodies across all Departments were announced and published on 14 October 2010. An updated list reflecting changes since October 2010 has been published on the Cabinet Office website this month:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/content/public-bodies-and-appointments

Information on the gender of those serving on the boards of public bodies is published annually.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Prime Minister when he plans to respond to the letter of 30 December 2010 on violence in computer games from the constituent of the hon. Member for Hammersmith, Corinna Jones. [47233]

**The Prime Minister:** A reply was sent earlier this year.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Equal Pay

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, whether the House of Commons Service has undertaken a pay audit to determine whether there is a pay gap between the men and women employed in the House Service. [47822]

**John Thurso:** An equal pay audit was undertaken for pay bands A-D in 2007 as part of preparations for 2008 pay negotiations. A follow-up audit has now been commissioned. Work on this audit has just started and is scheduled to be complete in April 2011. An equal pay audit of the Senior Commons Structure (SCS) was undertaken in 2010 on behalf of the House's Senior Pay Panel. Equal pay audits follow best practice, i.e. the five-step equal pay audit model as outlined in the Equal Pay Statutory Code of Practice.

### Manpower: Females

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission what proportion of *(a)* members of the House of Commons Management Board, *(b)* heads of department of the House of Commons and *(c)* heads of each office or service in each House of Commons department are women. [47823][1]

**John Thurso:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* The House of Commons Management Board comprises the Clerk of the House (Chair), the Directors General of the four departments of the House and the Director of PICT, which is a joint department of the two Houses. There is also an external member. The proportion of women is 17%. A new department, the Department of Finance, will be launched on 1 April 2011. The Head of the new department will sit on the Management Board, and her presence will alter the proportion of women on the Board to 29% *(b)* The proportion of women who are heads of the four current departments of the House is zero and will rise to 20% of five departments in April. If PICT is included, the figures are 17.5% and 33% respectively, *(c)* Currently, there are 27 Directors/Heads of Office. Ten of these (43%) are women. If PICT is included, the figure is 37%.

## EDUCATION

### Academies

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment his Department has made of the merits of federations of schools established in order to support bids for academy status; and if he will make a statement. [38029]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 3 February 2011]*: There is evidence to suggest that a strong school with good systems and a clear model of school improvement can provide effective help to an underperforming school (Potter, 2004; DfES, 2005; Hill, 2008; Hill and Matthews, 2008, Hill 2010). Federations or chains of schools can also make savings by pooling resources and through economies of scale. For example they are more likely to be able to employ fully qualified and experienced financial and business managers and can share back office administration and maintenance services (Hill, 2010).

### Academies: Wigan

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education on which dates meetings were held between officials of his Department and Abraham Guest high school in Wigan to discuss the conversion of that school to academy status since May 2010. [38457]

**Mr Gibb:** Only one meeting has been held between Department of Education officials and representatives of Abraham Guest high school to discuss the conversion of the school to academy status. This meeting was held on 18 November 2010 at Winstanley college, Wigan. All subsequent discussions have primarily been held over the telephone.

### Adoption

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to improve the process of adoption. [37014]

**Tim Loughton** *[holding answer 31 January 2011]*: The Government expect the adoption system to work effectively for all looked after children who would benefit from this permanence option, and wants to see all local authorities performing at the level of the best. That is why I have set up a Ministerial Advisory Group on Adoption to provide expert advice on a range of practical proposals to improve and share practice. In November 2010, I wrote to directors of Children's Services and lead members to ask them to do everything possible to increase the number of children appropriately placed for adoption, and to improve the speed with which decisions are made.

On 22 February I published revised statutory guidance on adoption. This is an important element in the Government's programme of reform to support adoption agencies in removing barriers to adoption and reducing delay. The guidance takes account of recent case law and reflects key messages from the "Adoption Research Initiative", which provides a robust evidence base for adoption practice, including permanence planning, family finding and matching of children and prospective adopters. I also recently hosted a roundtable event with a group of adopters to hear about their experiences of the adoption process and how it can be improved.

In addition, the Family Justice Review is considering what changes are needed to the system including how best to ensure that delays in determining the outcomes of court applications are kept to a minimum. The interim report is due at the end of March and the final report in October 2011. In the meantime, I will continue to discuss with the president of the Family Division how cases can be better handled in the context of the current legal framework.

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[1] *[Official Report, 1 April 2011, Vol. 525, c. 9-10MC.]*

## Apprentices: Greater London

**Glenda Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding he has allocated for level 2 apprenticeships in 2011-12 in the *(a)* London borough of Camden and *(b)* London borough of Brent. [38418]

**Mr Hayes:** The total apprenticeships budget for the 2011-12 financial year is £799 million for 16 to 18-year-olds; £605 million for those aged 19 and over[1] and our indicative forecast is to fund over 360,000 apprenticeship places in the 2011/12 academic year. The levels that these places are at will be determined by the level of skills employers actually need in their business.

The Apprenticeships Programme is demand led. Government do not plan apprenticeship places by level or set specific allocations for apprenticeships by local authority. Government provide funding to the Skills Funding Agency on a national basis and forecasts the overall number of places that may be afforded.

We rely on employers and providers to work together to offer sufficient opportunities to meet local demand, taking advantage of the greater freedoms and flexibilities that we have created in the further education system. Funding allocations to colleges and providers reflect the pattern of employer demand and funding is moved in year to reflect local need. The National Apprenticeship Service works with local providers and employers in the London borough of Camden and the London borough of Brent to make Apprenticeship places available where there is demand.

[1] 16-18 figures: 16-19 Funding Statement, YPLA (December 2010); 19+ figures: Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth, BIS (November 2010)

## Children: Poverty

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate he has made of the number of children living in severe poverty in Brighton, Pavilion constituency. [45450]

**Maria Miller:** I have been asked to reply.

There is no official or agreed definition of severe poverty.

Estimates of the number and proportion of children living in poverty are published in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household income adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living. HBAI presents a range of low-income thresholds (based on 50, 60 and 70% of median income). As they are based on survey data, child poverty estimates published in HBAI only allow breakdowns to Government office region and analysis by parliamentary constituency is not possible.

## Children's Centres: Greater London

**Glenda Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding he has allocated to Sure Start children's centres in the *(a)* London borough of Camden and *(b)* London borough of Brent and whether such funding will be ring-fenced. [38186]

**Sarah Teather:** Until March 2011 funding allocated to local authorities for children's centres was included within the wider Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Grant (SSEYCG). From 2011-12, funding will be included within the new Early Intervention Grant. This is a new un-ring-fenced and un-hypothecated funding stream which from 1 April 2011 will give local authorities greater flexibility to target resources strategically and intervene early to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. The Government have ensured there is enough money within the Early Intervention Grant to retain a network of Sure Start Children's Centres, accessible to all but identifying and supporting families in greatest need. Final local authority EIG allocations for 2011-12 and 2012-13 were announced on 25 February.

The following table sets out the London borough of Brent and Camden's SSEYCG allocations for 2010-11 and their final Early Intervention Grant allocations for 2011-12 and 2012-13.

*Total allocations for Brent and Camden 2010-13*

| | *SSEYCG capital and revenue allocation 2010-11* | *Early Intervention Grant 2011-12 final allocations* | *Early Intervention Grant 2012-13 final allocations* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Brent | 7,501,688 | 14,226,439 | 14,715,338 |
| Camden | 4,512,976 | 13,021,973 | 13,258,413 |

## Children's Centres: Sefton

**Bill Esterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding his Department provided for children's centres in Sefton in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and how much such funding will be provided in 2011-12. [37956]

**Sarah Teather:** Funding allocated to local authorities for Sure Start Children's Centres (until March 2011) was included within the wider Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Grant (SSEYCG) Main Revenue and Main Capital funding blocks. Local authorities have the freedom to decide on how to allocate this funding in line with local priorities.

Sefton local authority's SSEYCG allocations for 2008-11 are shown in the following table.

*Sefton SSEYCG capital and revenue allocation 2008-11*

| | *Capital* | *Revenue* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 241,213 | 2,480,716 | 2,721,929 |
| 2009-10 | 495,770 | 3,270,084 | 3,765,854 |
| 2010-11 | 312,670 | 3,679,674 | 3,992,344 |

The Early Intervention Grant is a new un-ring-fenced and un-hypothecated funding stream which from 1 April 2011 will give local authorities greater flexibility to target resources strategically and intervene early to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. The Government have ensured there is enough money within the Early Intervention Grant to retain a network of Sure Start Children's Centres, accessible to all but identifying and supporting families in greatest need. Final allocations for the Early Intervention Grant for 2011-12 and 2012-13 were published on 25 February 2011—the allocation for Sefton local authority for 2011-12 is £11,370,590.

### Class Sizes

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average adult-pupil ratio is in *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary, *(c)* special and *(d)* all schools in England. [40407]

**Mr Gibb:** The following table provides the pupil:adult ratio in local authority maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools in England, January 2010.

*Table 15: Pupil:adult ratios[1, 2] in local authority maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools. Years: January 2010. Coverage: England*

| *2010* | *Ratios* |
|---|---|
| *Nursery schools* | |
| PAR within-schools[3] | 4.7 |
| *Primary schools* | |
| PAR within-schools[3] | 11.4 |
| *Secondary schools* | |
| PAR within-schools[3] | 10.4 |
| *Special schools* | |
| PAR within-schools[3] | 2.0 |
| *Total* | |
| PAR within-schools[3] | 10.4 |

[1] For statistical purposes only, pupils who do not attend both morning and afternoon at least five days a week are regarded as part-time. Each part-time pupil is treated as 0.5 FTE.

[2] Excludes pupil referral units, other non education establishments, city technology colleges and academies.

[3] The PAR is calculated by dividing the total FTE number of pupils on roll in schools by the total FTE number of all teachers and support staff employed in schools, excluding administrative and clerical staff.

*Source:*

School Census

### Curriculum

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effects of the flexibility available to *(a)* schools and *(b)* academies in relation to the national curriculum on (i) science and (ii) sex and relationship education. [43073]

**Mr Gibb:** One of the freedoms academies and free schools enjoy is over the curriculum they deliver, provided it is a balanced and broadly based curriculum. The new model funding agreement requires academies and free schools to teach English, mathematics and science and to make provision for the teaching of religious education. Beyond that, they will be able to choose a curriculum that engages and meets the needs of their pupils.

### Departmental Food

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will estimate the proportion of the seafood procured for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible that (i) was on the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid and (ii) complied with sustainability standards indicated by inclusion in either the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat or by the list of fish species certified by the Marine Stewardship Council in (A) 2010 and (B) 2011 to date. [45030]

**Tim Loughton:** From April 2009, fish procured by the Department's catering supplier is sourced to the Marine Conservation Society' s traffic light categorisation of Green, Amber and Red with the department's core supplies falling into the Amber category of fish from a sustainable source of which 28% meets Marine Stewardship Council criteria. In our single arm's length body with catering and restaurant facilities, the catering supplier has MSC accreditation with all fish supplied meeting their standards.

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Mr Blunkett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what provision his Department *(a)* makes to and *(b)* supports for advice lines providing a service to grandparents and extended families. [45496]

**Sarah Teather:** The Department currently funds a range of online and telephone support services, all of which are available to grandparents and extended families. These are largely provided by voluntary sector organisations. The Department is currently running a procurement process to award new contracts to organisations to deliver family support services over 2011-12. The contracts and grants for most of the current services are being extended to ensure continuity of service to families for the duration of the current procurement exercise. The procurement documentation is publicly available on the DFE website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/policiesandprocedures/procurement/a0037/current-contracts-advertised-by-the-department

### Discretionary Learner Support Fund

**Graham Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what mechanism he plans to put in place to allocate the discretionary learner support fund according to region; and whether he plans to make provision to distribute the fund according to assessed need. [36095]

**Mr Gibb:** We are considering the replacement for the education maintenance allowance, including how the funds should be allocated to ensure that support is targeted on those young people who most need support to allow them to continue in education.

**Ben Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to permit further education colleges to distribute funds from the discretionary learner support fund to students aged 19 and over. [38792]

**Mr Gibb:** The current discretionary learner support funds for students aged 16-18 are funded by the Department for Education, whereas discretionary learner support funds for students aged 19 and above are funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

From September 2011 the EMA scheme and the current discretionary learner support scheme for students aged 16-18 will be replaced, with a package of financial support which is more closely targeted on those who face the greatest financial barriers to participation.

### Education: Personal Income

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment his Department has made of potential links between income inequality and educational achievement. [44093]

**Mr Gibb:** After prior attainment, poverty is the single most important factor in predicting a child's future life chances. Deprivation remains associated with poorer average performance at every stage of education; for example:

> by the end of key stage 1, the likelihood of a pupil eligible for free school meals achieving national expectations in reading, writing and mathematics are one-third those of a child who is not eligible;
>
> last year, at the end of key stage 2, just 56% of children eligible for free school meals achieved national expectations in English and mathematics combined, compared to 77% of children who were not eligible.
>
> the likelihood of a child who is eligible for free school meals achieving five or more good GCSEs, including English and mathematics, are less than one third those of a child who is not eligible; and
>
> a pupil from a non-deprived background is more than twice as likely to go on to study at university as their deprived peers.

Raising the attainment of children from low income families is at the heart of our school improvement policy. That is why we are introducing the pupil premium from April of this year, providing an additional £430 for every disadvantaged child to help ensure they reach their full potential We are also establishing a £110 million Education Endowment Fund which will fund bold and innovative ways of raising the attainment of disadvantaged pupils in underperforming schools.

In the early years, we are gradually extending 15 hours per week of free early education and care to all disadvantaged two year olds from 2012-13, at a total cost of around £300 million a year. The Early Intervention Grant will not only fund universal programmes and activities, but also specialist services where more intensive support is needed. In the first two years of the Early Intervention Grant, £2,212 million (in 2011-12) and £2,297m (in 2012-13) is being allocated to local authorities in England.

### EU Strategic Framework for Education and Training

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the *(a)* likely effect on and *(b)* cost to his Department of the implementation of the EU Strategic Framework for Education and Training; which policies of his Department will be affected; and if he will make a statement. [44283]

**Mr Gibb:** There are no direct policy implications for the Department from the implementation of the EU Strategic Framework for Education and Training. In line with Articles 165 and 166 of the EU Treaty, the Strategic Framework recognises that each member state is responsible for its own education and training systems and that action at European Union level is limited to supporting member states. The Strategic Framework also proposes changes to the Open Method of Co-ordination (OMC), the process through which mutual understanding and sharing of good practice is promoted across member states. We have not quantified the direct cost to the Department of involvement in the Strategic Framework. It involves a small amount of staff time in fulfilling the UK's contribution, through attending relevant meetings and providing information on UK policies. The Government will continue to examine the proposals from the Strategic Framework, to ensure that they support and supplement domestic policy, and do not increase EU competence in the field of education.

### Faith Schools

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the *(a)* faith and *(b)* year of foundation is of each faith school in England. [42174]

**Mr Gibb:** Faith schools make up around 34% of all maintained mainstream schools in England (37% primary, 19% secondary)—almost 7,000 faith schools from a total of just over 20,000 maintained mainstream schools. The majority represent the major Christian faiths.

The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries.

### Free School Meals

**Angela Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the compatibility with provisions of *(a)* domestic and *(b)* EU legislation of his policy on (i) provision of free school meals and (ii) provision of such meals to those in further education or sixth form colleges; and if he will make a statement. [38282]

**Mr Gibb:** Free school meals are provided to eligible pupils aged up to 18 years in schools maintained by a local authority, as defined in the Education Act 1996. Pupils aged 19 or over are also eligible as long as their course of study began before attaining the age of 18. Pupils attending FE or Sixth Form Colleges that are not part of a school do not therefore qualify for free meals and the legislation has never applied to these pupils.

There is no provision in either domestic or EU law that is incompatible with the current arrangements in England for free school meals.

### Free Schools

**Andy Burnham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has spent to date on supporting and promoting applications for free schools. [37970]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 3 February 2011]:* The Department does not provide direct support, either financial or in the form of other resources, to free schools applicants until their proposal has been approved by Ministers to proceed to business case and plan stage.

At application stage, support to groups or individuals is provided by the New Schools Network (NSN), an independent charitable organisation that is funded by the Department. To date the cost of the grant provided to NSN has been £130,359.

**Andy Burnham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what communications and media support his Department is providing for free school groups. [37971]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 3 February 2011]:* At the free schools conference on 29 January, we ran a communications training workshop. This 50 minute session was run at no cost by an individual who had previously set up a school and therefore was well placed to provide practical advice to proposers. Otherwise, individual free school proposers are responsible for their own communications and engagement with their communities.

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what estimate he has made of the average number of pupils in free schools; [39929]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of pupils who will attend each free school *(a)* in their first year of operation and *(b)* at planned full operating levels. [39930]

**Mr Gibb:** As at 8 March 2011, 40 proposals for free schools have been approved to business case and plan stage. It is not possible at this point to provide details of pupil numbers for these schools as this will vary widely and be dependent on the admissions process.

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much he expects to provide in capital funding *(a)* for each free school and *(b)* in total. [40241]

**Mr Gibb:** Every free school is different and the capital costs will vary between projects.

We have allocated £50 million in 2010-11 to meet the capital needs of free schools. Beyond that, provision forms part of the overall spending review settlement for schools. Allocations for free schools have yet to be decided and will be dependent in part on the conclusion of the capital review which is due to report shortly.

## GCSE

**Bob Stewart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will bring forward proposals to encourage more schools to offer GCSEs in *(a)* religious education and *(b)* geology. [45202]

**Mr Gibb:** We believe that schools are best placed to decide which individual subjects and which GCSEs, or other qualifications, they offer, in order to meet the needs of their pupils.

We have recently introduced a new performance measure, the English Baccalaureate, to encourage more schools to offer a core of academic subjects—English, maths, science, history or geography and a modern or ancient foreign language. There is space for pupils to study religious education, and geology, alongside the English Baccalaureate. Religious Education continues to be a compulsory subject at key stage 4.

## Music: Education

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effects on music education in schools of reductions in funding for music services. [39532]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 14 February 2011]:* On 7 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 8, in response to Darren Henley's review of music education, the Secretary of State for Education announced that the overall level of funding in 2011-12, £82.5 million, is at the same level as that which went to local authorities for music education in 2010-11. We have protected money to the front line so that all children have a chance to receive a high quality music education, and we shall be setting out our plans, later this year, in a National Plan for Music Education.

Consistent with our education strategy set out in the Schools White Paper 'The Importance of Teaching', we are safeguarding the very important front line delivery of music education services and providing smaller central funding for three important projects—Sing Up, In Harmony, and to develop a new programme with Teach First to develop a programme for the top music graduates.

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects to announce the allocation of the Music Standards Fund to local authorities. [40251]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 11 February 2011]:* Local authorities were notified of their individual funding allocations for music education on 1 March 2011.

## National Curriculum in England Review

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) when his Department expects to *(a)* complete and *(b)* implement in schools the findings of the second phase of its review of the curriculum covering non-core subjects; [41435]

(2) for which non-core subjects his Department plans to draft programmes of study. [41536]

**Mr Gibb:** With regard to non-core subjects, the first phase of the review will consider which, if any, national curriculum subjects in addition to English, mathematics, science and PE should be part of the national curriculum in future, and at which key stages. We will announce decisions on these issues, following consultation, in spring 2012.

In phase two we will produce draft programmes of study for any subjects other than English, mathematics, science and PE which will either be part of the national curriculum or have non-statutory programmes of study in future. We will publish proposals on these issues for consultation in early 2013 and announce final decisions in spring 2013. The new curriculum for subjects covered in phase two will be available to schools by September 2013, with teaching in maintained schools from September 2014.

## Numeracy: Literacy

**Andy Burnham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how much his Department has spent on training and support for the *(a)* Every Child Counts and *(b)* Every Child a Reader programmes in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10; and how much it plans to spend in (A) 2010-11, (B) 2011-12 and (C) 2012-13; [43365]

(2) how many posts for trainers for the *(a)* Every Child Counts and *(b)* Every Child a Reader programmes will be funded in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12 and (iii) 2012-13; [43366]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of pupils to participate in the *(a)* Every Child Counts and *(b)* Every Child a Reader programmes in the academic year (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12 and (iii) 2012-13. [43367]

**Mr Gibb:** The breakdown of spending on the Every Child Counts (ECC) and Every Child a Reader (ECaR) programmes is as follows:

| | *ECC (£ million)* | *ECaR (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 2.8 | 15.7 |
| 2009-10 | 14.6 | 28.8 |
| 2010-11[1] | 30.1 | 42.3 |

[1] 2010-11 includes an element of forecast for the final month of the financial year. The number of funded Teacher Leader (trainer) posts in 2010-11 for Every Child Counts is 61, with an additional 28 in training, and for Every Child a Reader 79, with an additional 21 in training.

Funding for 2011-12 onwards is now included in the Dedicated Schools Grant, for individual schools to decide how best to spend. In addition, we will provide funding to facilitate the transition to open procurement of the Every Child a Reader and Every Child Counts programmes.

The number of pupils who have participated in the Every Child Counts and Every Child a Reader programmes in 2010-11 is 22,532 and 29,020 respectively. Future estimates for pupil participation are unavailable as these decisions will be taken at a local level.

### Nursery Education: Fees and Charges

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on allowing nurseries to charge top-up fees in respect of free entitlement hours. [45222]

**Sarah Teather:** Fairness is at the heart of the Government's agenda. Local authorities have a statutory duty—under section 7 of the Childcare Act—to secure nursery places free of charge, effectively prohibiting top-up fees. This ensures that there are no barriers to accessing the benefits of nursery education for all children, but particularly the most disadvantaged. Parents are free to purchase additional hours and services outside of the hours for which providers receive funding from local authorities.

The Government are listening to the views of early years providers and their representative bodies concerning funding issues and in response are seeking to improve the efficiency with which funding is distributed to providers, through the early years single funding formula, as well as through reducing bureaucratic burdens on providers who deliver free nursery education. Providers around the country are offering an excellent service to parents and their children within existing funding levels.

### Parents: Fines

**Glyn Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many parents of children in age group *(a)* 5 to 11 and *(b)* 12 to 16 were fined as a result of their children not attending school in each local education authority in each of the last five years. [46050]

**Mr Gibb:** Information from the Ministry of Justice court proceedings database show the number of defendants (parents/including carers) fined at all courts for offences relating to failing to ensure their children's regular school attendance in England and Wales for the years 2005 to 2009 can be viewed in table 1, copies of which have been placed in the Libraries. Data are held centrally at police force area level and not local education authority area. The information held does not identify the age group of the child.

The Department also collects and publishes data at local authority level for England on the number of penalty notices (fines) issued to parents for the offence of failing to ensure their children's regular school attendance. The information held does not identify the age group of the child. Data provided in table 2, copies of which have been placed in the Libraries relates to each of the last five academic years from 2004 to 2009 for all local authorities in England. Fuller details are also available on the Department's website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/parents/a0010302/parental-responsibility-data

### Physics and Mathematics: Teachers

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent progress he has made in increasing the number of physics and mathematics teachers. [37435]

**Mr Gibb:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education, has written to the Training and Development Agency for Schools with the details of the initial teacher training place allocations and training bursary amounts for academic year 2011/12. Places for secondary mathematics and physics have increased as a proportion of the total allocation. In line with our ambition to recruit more of the best mathematics and physics graduates, we will be offering training bursaries at the highest rate of £9,000.

The data from the School Workforce Census will enable the Department to monitor progress annually on the recruitment of mathematics and physics teachers and ensure resources and initiatives are targeted appropriately. From April this year information from the Census will be published on the qualifications and deployment of secondary school teachers as part of the School Workforce Statistical First Release.

### Pupils: Disadvantaged

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many school children in *(a)* Harlow, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England he expects to receive his proposed pupil premium in its first year of operation. [29353]

**Rory Stewart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much he estimates each local authority will receive under the pupil premium in 2011-12. [38804]

**Mr Gibb:** The pupil premium for 2011-12 will be allocated to local authorities and schools with pupils that are known to be eligible for free school meals (FSM) as recorded on the January 2011 School Census, Pupil Referral Unit Census and Alternative Provision Census. Each pupil known to be eligible for free school meals will attract £430 of funding which will go to the school or academy via the local authority or YPLA if the pupil is in a mainstream setting or will be managed by the responsible local authority if the pupil is in a non-mainstream setting.

Local authorities will also attract the looked-after child pupil premium for 2011-12 which will be allocated to local authorities for pupils who at some point in the year to 31 March 2011 were looked after continuously for at least six months, and who were aged four to 15 on 31 August 2010 as recorded on the April 2011 local authority return. Each pupil will attract £430 of funding which will go to the responsible local authority who will pass it to maintained schools for pupils who have been in care for six months or more in the year to 31 March 2011.

The amounts allocated in 2011-12 will depend on the numbers of FSM and looked-after pupils recorded on the January 2011 censuses, so it is not possible to give precise figures for 2011 and subsequent years.

It is however possible to estimate how much schools and local authorities will receive based on the figures from the January 2010 census. Tables that contain these estimates, disaggregated by local authority, region and constituency have been placed in the Libraries.

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will extend the pupil premium to pupils aged above 15 years. [38659]

**Mr Gibb:** The 16-18 funding formula for 2010-11 already has an element that ensures disadvantaged students attending schools and colleges, or who are funded as an apprentice, receive a funding premium. The formula has two elements which provide disadvantaged students with a funding supplement. These are the funding linked to the disadvantage uplift within the formula and that for additional learning support. Details of the 16-18 funding formula for schools and colleges can be found on the website of the Young People's Learning Agency at

http://readingroom.ypla.gov.uk/ypla/funding_rates_and_formula_v2.2.pdf

and that for apprenticeships on the Skills Funding Agency website at

http://readingroom.skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/sfa/Apprenticeship-funding-requirements-2010_11-v1.pdf

The funding for disadvantage and additional education support has been increased to almost £770 million in total in 2011-12, an increase of more than one-third from 2010-11. We will continue to look at how we can better target support for disadvantaged 16 to 18-year-olds as part of the review of funding for 2012 onwards to make the system more transparent and fair.

**Rory Stewart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* children eligible for free school meals, *(b)* looked-after children and *(c)* children of members of the armed forces in each local authority area he estimates will be eligible for the pupil premium in 2011-12. [38800]

**Mr Gibb:** The pupil premium for 2011-12 will be allocated to local authorities and schools with pupils that are known to be eligible for free school meals (FSM) as recorded on the January 2011 School Census, Pupil Referral Unit Census and Alternative Provision Census. Each pupil known to be eligible for free school meals will attract £430 of funding which will go to the school or academy via the local authority or YPLA if the pupil is in a mainstream setting or will be managed by the responsible local authority if the pupil is in a non-mainstream setting.

Local authorities will also attract the looked-after child pupil premium for 2011-12 which will be allocated to local authorities for pupils who at some point in the year to 31 March 2011 were looked after continuously for at least six months, and who were aged four to 15 on 31 August 2010 as recorded on the April 2011 local authority return. Each pupil will attract £430 of funding which will go to the responsible local authority who will pass it to maintained schools for pupils who have been in care for six months or more in the year to 31 March 2011.

The amounts allocated in 2011-12 will depend on the numbers of FSM and looked-after pupils recorded on the January 2011 censuses, so it is not possible to give precise figures for 2011 and subsequent years. We aim to extend the coverage of the pupil premium from 2012-13 onwards to pupils who have previously been known to be eligible for free school meals. We intend to consult on this, including the question of which deprivation indicator to use, in the summer.

Although it is not possible to give precise figures for 2011 and subsequent years it is possible to estimate how much schools and local authorities will receive based on the figures from the January 2010 census. Tables that contain these estimates, disaggregated by local authority, region and constituency have been placed in the Libraries.

### Schools: Admissions

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has undertaken an equality impact assessment in respect of his proposal to remove the requirement for local authorities to establish an admissions forum. [37961]

**Mr Gibb:** The proposal to remove the requirement on local authorities to establish admissions forums for their area is part of our drive to remove bureaucracy from the system. That does not mean that they cannot be established if the admission authorities in that area feel it is in their interests to do so on a voluntary basis. Our changes to the admissions system seek to make the system simpler, fairer and more accessible. We want to give parents more choice in the system and ensure schools are held to account locally rather than centrally. Our proposals were first signalled in the Schools White Paper, "The Importance of Teaching", for which an equalities impact assessment was published. It can be found at:

http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/s/schools%20white%20paper%20overarching%20equia.pdf

### Schools: Assessments

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the levels of attainment in examinations of pupils at specialist sports *(a)* schools and *(b)* colleges in the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [29055]

**Tim Loughton** *[holding answer 6 December 2010]:* The levels of attainment in GCSE and A-level examinations of students in state-funded mainstream schools and in further education colleges in the last three years are set out in the tables.

*Percentage of students at the end of key stage 4 achieving 5 or more GCSE grades A*-C or equivalent including English and mathematics GCSEs, by specialism*

| *Type of school* | *2008 (%)* | *Number of schools* | *2009 (%)* | *Number of schools* | *2010 (%)* | *Number of schools* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Specialist sports schools | 45.3 | 416 | 48.1 | 421 | 52.8 | 416 |
| Schools with other specialisms | 51.7 | 2,337 | 53.9 | 2,365 | 58,4 | 2,345 |
| Non-specialist schools (including academies) | 34.1 | 406 | 37.1 | 392 | 42.5 | 391 |
| All state funded mainstream schools | 49.2 | 3,159 | 51.7 | 3,178 | 56.2 | 3,152 |

*Notes:*

1. Coverage is students at the end of key stage 4 in state-funded mainstream secondary schools that were published in the School Performance Tables in the Year in question.

2. Schools are classed as sports specialist if either their main or second specialism is sport.

*Average point scores achieved in A-level or equivalent qualifications by candidates at the end of advanced level study, by institution specialism*

| *Type of school* | *2008* | *Number of schools* | *2009* | *Number of schools* | *2010* | *Number of schools* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Specialist sports schools | 711.7 | 237 | 720.1 | 246 | 734.8 | 253 |
| Schools with other specialisms | 770.2 | 1,409 | 773.1 | 1,470 | 787.2 | 1,482 |
| Non-specialist schools(including academies) | 676.6 | 236 | 690.8 | 250 | 683.5 | 274 |
| All state funded mainstream schools | 758.3 | 1,882 | 762.3 | 1,966 | 774.3 | 2,009 |
| Further education colleges | 685.7 | 357 | 684.5 | 347 | 684.1 | 344 |
| All state funded schools and colleges | 722.4 | 2,239 | 722.8 | 2,313 | 727.2 | 2,353 |

*Notes:*

1. Coverage is students aged 16-18 who are at the end of A/AS level study or equivalent in state funded mainstream secondary schools and in FE colleges.

2. Specialism allocated to state funded mainstream schools in the same way as key stage 4. No specialisms associated with FE colleges.

### Schools: Closures

**Stella Creasy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what the *(a)* name, *(b)* local authority area and *(c)* book value was of each (i) primary and (ii) secondary school in England that closed in the last eight years; [44036]

(2) what the *(a)* name, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* book value is of each potential school site which meets the requirements contemplated in (i) paragraph 1 and (ii) paragraph 2 of Schedule 13 of the Education Bill. [44039]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answers 7 March 2011]:* A table setting out the available information on school closures in the last eight years has been placed in the House Libraries. The Department does not hold any information on the book value of the land relating to these closures. The table only includes those maintained schools which have physically closed and not been replaced. It does not include any schools that have been closed only to be replaced by new schools.

Any land, in the eight years since the school closed, which had not been in use by another school, or which had not been disposed of with the Secretary of State's approval under either schedule 35a of the Education Act 1996 or section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 in the case of playing fields, would meet the requirements specified in paragraph 1 of schedule 13 of the Education Bill.

It is not possible to supply information about the availability of specific school sites in the future, since this will depend on future decisions, principally by local authorities. Paragraph 1 of schedule 13 to the Education Bill applies to a situation in which local authority land may become available because a school has closed or is about to close, or is otherwise recognised as surplus to the needs of a school. Paragraph 2 of schedule 13 applies to land specified by the local authority as the site for a proposed new school under the arrangements for new schools in the Bill, and is dependent on future decisions by local authorities that new schools are needed. Decisions on school closures and the disposal of surplus land will normally be taken by local authorities (unless a school is in special measures, in which case a closure can be instigated by the Secretary of State).

### Schools: Information and Communications Technology

**Jim Dowd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the inclusions and recommendations of the Becta report on school management information systems and value for money in 2010. [43817]

**Mr Gibb:** The report: "School Management Information Systems and Value for Money 2010" was published by Becta on their website and released to key stakeholders, including local authorities, on 29 October 2010. The Department has reviewed and welcomed the majority of the findings of the report. Much of the Becta advice and guidance is for local authorities, but the Department continues to work to implement its parts of the recommendations, particularly to support improved interoperability between school Management Information Systems (MIS), to support improved competition, to ensure that MIS procurements are compliant with EL) and UK procurement law, to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy, and to help schools and local authorities to achieve value for money in these procurement areas, for example by reducing licensing costs.

### Schools: Sports

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 164W, on schools: sports, what steps his Department will take to ensure that the numbers of links between secondary schools and clubs will continue to rise. [38694]

**Tim Loughton** *[holding answer 7 February 2011]*: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 25 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 164W, on the steps the Government are taking to encourage links between schools and sports clubs.

**Yasmin Qureshi:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department allocated to school sport in *(a)* Bolton South East constituency and *(b)* Bolton in each of the last two financial years; and how much such funding he plans to allocate in each of the next two financial years. [44788]

**Tim Loughton:** Funding for school sport over the last two years has been passed to schools through the network via the hub school of each partnership. There are no hub schools of school sport partnerships within the Bolton south east constituency. School sport funding for schools in Bolton over this period was as follows:

| | | £ |
|---|---|---|
| *School sport partnership* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
| Bolton north east—Thornleigh Salesian | 301,287 | 265,009 |
| Bolton west—St Joseph's | 266,939 | 236,036 |

In addition, in academic years 2011/12 and 2012/13, all secondary schools in Bolton and in the Bolton south east constituency will receive funding to release a PE teacher for one day a week to enable them to create more opportunities for competitive sport for their pupils and for pupils in their local primary schools. Further details, including the amount of funding that each school will receive, will be announced shortly.

### Schools: Transport

**Mr Marcus Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will publish the terms of reference for his proposed review of school transport, including transport for 16 to 18-year-olds; and on what date he expects the review to be completed. [45428]

**Mr Gibb:** The main focus of the review will be on considering how best practice can be shared across all local authorities and how the savings being made by some local authorities could be replicated more widely. We will make further announcements in due course.

### Schools: Vocational Guidance

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the provision of careers guidance for young people prior to the introduction of the proposed all-age careers service. [38931]

**Mr Gibb:** We announced in December 2010 that the Early Intervention Grant would enable local authorities to continue to support vulnerable young people and would also support their transitional responsibilities in respect of careers guidance. Decisions as to how such services should be provided are a matter for local authorities, taking account of their statutory responsibilities.

### Sixth Form Education

**Damian Hinds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many maintained schools there were *(a)* with and *(b)* without a sixth form there were (i) nationally and (ii) in each local authority area in academic year 2009-10. [43672]

**Mr Gibb:** Information on the number of state-funded secondary schools with or without a sixth form in England and each local authority area is shown in the following table.

*State-funded secondary schools[1, 2]: Number of schools with and without a sixth form[3]—January 2010 Government office region and local authority area in—England*

| | *State-funded secondary schools[1, 2]* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number of schools with a sixth form[3]* | *Number of schools without a sixth form* | *Total state-funded secondary schools* |
| *England* | 1,867 | 1,466 | 3,333 |
| | | | |
| *North East* | 70 | 128 | 198 |
| Darlington | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| Durham | 14 | 22 | 36 |
| Gateshead | 9 | 2 | 11 |

*State-funded secondary schools[1, 2]: Number of schools with and without a sixth form[3]—January 2010 Government office region and local authority area in—England*

| | *State-funded secondary schools[1, 2]* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number of schools with a sixth form[3]* | *Number of schools without a sixth form* | *Total state-funded secondary schools* |
| Hartlepool | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| Middlesbrough | 2 | 6 | 3 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 11 | 3 | 14 |
| North Tyneside | 8 | 7 | 15 |
| Northumberland | 15 | 37 | 52 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 3 | 8 | 11 |
| South Tyneside | 1 | 8 | 9 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 2 | 11 | 13 |
| Sunderland | 3 | 14 | 17 |
| | | | |
| *North West* | 192 | 264 | 456 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 3 | 7 | 10 |
| Blackpool | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| Bolton | 5 | 12 | 17 |
| Bury | 1 | 13 | 14 |
| Cheshire East | 13 | 7 | 20 |
| Cheshire West and Chester | 15 | 5 | 20 |
| Cumbria | 26 | 11 | 37 |
| Halton | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| Knowsley | 2 | 5 | 7 |
| Lancashire | 16 | 66 | 82 |
| Liverpool | 30 | 1 | 31 |
| Manchester | 6 | 18 | 24 |
| Oldham | 4 | 11 | 15 |
| Rochdale | 6 | 8 | 14 |
| Salford | 4 | 11 | 15 |
| Sefton | 14 | 7 | 21 |
| St Helens | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| Stockport | 1 | 13 | 14 |
| Tameside | 2 | 14 | 16 |
| Trafford | 10 | 8 | 18 |
| Warrington | 6 | 6 | 12 |
| Wigan | 2 | 18 | 20 |
| Wirral | 18 | 5 | 23 |
| | | | |
| *Yorkshire and The Humber* | 175 | 141 | 316 |
| | | | |
| Barnsley | 2 | 11 | 13 |
| Bradford | 28 | 1 | 29 |
| Calderdale | 12 | 2 | 14 |
| Doncaster | 14 | 3 | 17 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 17 | 1 | 18 |
| Kingston Upon Hull, City of | 2 | 12 | 14 |
| Kirklees | 6 | 25 | 31 |
| Leeds | 34 | 4 | 38 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 4 | 7 | 11 |
| North Lincolnshire | 3 | 10 | 13 |
| North Yorkshire | 25 | 22 | 47 |
| Rotherham | 8 | 8 | 16 |
| Sheffield | 10 | 17 | 27 |
| Wakefield | 5 | 13 | 18 |
| York | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| | | | |
| *East Midlands* | 182 | 114 | 296 |
| Derby | 10 | 4 | 14 |
| Derbyshire | 28 | 19 | 47 |
| Leicester | 4 | 14 | 13 |
| Leicestershire | 18 | 36 | 54 |

*State-funded secondary schools[1, 2]: Number of schools with and without a sixth form[3]—January 2010 Government office region and local authority area in—England*

| | State-funded secondary schools[1, 2] | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number of schools with a sixth form*[3] | *Number of schools without a sixth form* | *Total state-funded secondary schools* |
| Lincolnshire | 36 | 24 | 60 |
| Northamptonshire | 37 | 4 | 41 |
| Nottingham | 7 | 7 | 14 |
| Nottinghamshire | 42 | 3 | 45 |
| Rutland | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| *West Midlands* | 227 | 174 | 401 |
| Birmingham | 40 | 35 | 75 |
| Coventry | 19 | 0 | 19 |
| Dudley | 3 | 18 | 21 |
| Herefordshire | 5 | 10 | 15 |
| Sandwell | 12 | 6 | 18 |
| Shropshire | 8 | 14 | 22 |
| Solihull | 8 | 6 | 14 |
| Staffordshire | 47 | 21 | 68 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 3 | 14 | 17 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 5 | 9 | 14 |
| Walsall | 19 | 0 | 19 |
| Warwickshire | 18 | 18 | 36 |
| Wolverhampton | 18 | 0 | 18 |
| Worcestershire | 22 | 23 | 45 |
| *East of England* | 236 | 184 | 420 |
| Bedford | 7 | 15 | 22 |
| Central Bedfordshire | 10 | 23 | 33 |
| Cambridgeshire | 13 | 17 | 30 |
| Essex | 46 | 32 | 78 |
| Hertfordshire | 76 | 6 | 82 |
| Luton | 1 | 11 | 12 |
| Norfolk | 29 | 23 | 52 |
| Peterborough | 11 | 0 | 11 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 11 | 1 | 12 |
| Suffolk | 30 | 48 | 78 |
| Thurrock | 2 | 8 | 10 |
| *London* | 294 | 134 | 428 |
| *Inner London* | 86 | 65 | 151 |
| Camden | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| City of London | 9 | 0 | 9 |
| Hackney | 6 | 6 | 12 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| Haringey | 7 | 5 | 12 |
| Islington | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Lambeth | 9 | 4 | 13 |
| Lewisham | 7 | 7 | 14 |
| Newham | 2 | 13 | 15 |
| Southwark | 8 | 8 | 16 |
| Tower Hamlets | 9 | 6 | 15 |
| Wandsworth | 10 | 1 | 11 |
| Westminster | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| *Outer London* | 208 | 69 | 277 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 9 | 0 | 9 |
| Barnet | 18 | 3 | 21 |
| Bexley | 12 | 4 | 16 |
| Brent | 14 | 1 | 15 |

*State-funded secondary schools[1, 2]: Number of schools with and without a sixth form[3]—January 2010 Government office region and local authority area in—England*

| | State-funded secondary schools[1, 2] | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number of schools with a sixth form[3]* | *Number of schools without a sixth form* | *Total state-funded secondary schools* |
| Bromley | 17 | 0 | 17 |
| Croydon | 9 | 13 | 22 |
| Ealing | 12 | 1 | 13 |
| Enfield | 17 | 1 | 18 |
| Greenwich | 7 | 6 | 13 |
| Harrow | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| Havering | 5 | 13 | 18 |
| Hillingdon | 17 | 1 | 18 |
| Hounslow | 14 | 0 | 14 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 10 | 0 | 10 |
| Merton | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| Redbridge | 17 | 0 | 17 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 0 | 3 | 8 |
| Sutton | 14 | 0 | 14 |
| Waltham Forest | 4 | 12 | 16 |
| | | | |
| *South East* | 310 | 183 | 493 |
| Bracknell Forest | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| Brighton and Hove | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| Buckinghamshire | 34 | 0 | 34 |
| East Sussex | 9 | 18 | 27 |
| Hampshire | 7 | 64 | 71 |
| Isle of Wight | 5 | 14 | 19 |
| Kent | 91 | 9 | 100 |
| Medway | 17 | 1 | 18 |
| Milton Keynes | 12 | 0 | 12 |
| Oxfordshire | 27 | 7 | 34 |
| Portsmouth | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| Reading | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| Slough | 11 | 0 | 11 |
| Southampton | 1 | 11 | 12 |
| Surrey | 31 | 22 | 53 |
| West Berkshire | 10 | 0 | 10 |
| West Sussex | 22 | 16 | 38 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 8 | 5 | 13 |
| Wokingham | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| | | | |
| *South West* | 181 | 144 | 325 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 10 | 3 | 13 |
| Bournemouth | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| Bristol, City of | 10 | 11 | 21 |
| Cornwall | 14 | 17 | 31 |
| Devon | 20 | 17 | 37 |
| Dorset | 16 | 18 | 34 |
| Gloucestershire | 25 | 16 | 41 |
| Isles of Scilly | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| North Somerset | 6 | 4 | 10 |
| Plymouth | 15 | 1 | 16 |
| Poole | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| Somerset | 9 | 30 | 39 |
| South Gloucestershire | 15 | 1 | 16 |
| Swindon | 3 | 8 | 11 |
| Torbay | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| Wiltshire | 21 | 8 | 29 |

n/a = Not applicable. No schools of this type

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Schools with eight or more sole and dual main registered pupils aged 16 to 15 as at 31 August 2009.

*Source:*

School Census

**Damian Hinds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils were enrolled in maintained schools *(a)* with and *(b)* without a sixth form (i) nationally and (ii) in each local authority area in academic year 2009-10. [43673]

**Mr Gibb:** Information on the number of pupils in state-funded secondary schools with or without a sixth form in England and each local authority area is shown in the following table.

*State-funded secondary schools[1,2]: number of pupils[3] in schools with and without a sixth form—January 2010*

*Government office region and local authority area in England*

| | | *State-funded secondary schools[1,2]* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number of pupils in schools with a sixth form[4]* | *Number of pupils in schools without a sixth form* | *Total pupils in state-funded secondary schools* |
| *England* | 2,153,800 | 1,124,690 | 3,278,490 |
| | | | |
| *North East* | 84,580 | 85,250 | 169,830 |
| Darlington | 1,146 | 4,764 | 5,910 |
| Durham | 15,240 | 15,239 | 30,479 |
| Gateshead | 11,345 | 1,332 | 12,677 |
| Hartlepool | 1,749 | 4,505 | 6,254 |
| Middlesbrough | 2,599 | 5,692 | 8,291 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 14,630 | 1,360 | 15,990 |
| North Tyneside | 9,114 | 4,324 | 13,438 |
| Northumberland | 17,246 | 12,050 | 29,296 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 3,004 | 6,418 | 9,422 |
| South Tyneside | 1,536 | 7,542 | 9,078 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 2,810 | 8,567 | 11,377 |
| Sunderland | 4,161 | 13,453 | 17,614 |
| | | | |
| *North West* | 215,700 | 219,750 | 435,450 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 3,310 | 6,158 | 9,468 |
| Blackpool | 1,211 | 6,754 | 7,965 |
| Bolton | 7,932 | 11,027 | 18,959 |
| Bury | 186 | 10,939 | 11,125 |
| Cheshire East | 16,832 | 5,508 | 22,340 |
| Cheshire West and Chester | 17,524 | 4,154 | 21,678 |
| Cumbria | 27,381 | 6,266 | 33,647 |
| Halton | 2,618 | 4,927 | 7,545 |
| Knowsley | 2,368 | 5,137 | 7,505 |
| Lancashire | 18,698 | 50,761 | 69,459 |
| Liverpool | 30,150 | 848 | 30,998 |
| Manchester | 6,997 | 16,407 | 23,404 |
| Oldham | 5,427 | 10,617 | 16,044 |
| Rochdale | 6,576 | 6,411 | 12,987 |
| Salford | 2,329 | 8,652 | 10,981 |
| Sefton | 13,946 | 5,261 | 19,207 |
| St Helens | 6,819 | 3,916 | 10,735 |
| Stockport | 716 | 13,999 | 14,715 |
| Tameside | 2,224 | 12,109 | 14,333 |
| Trafford | 11,170 | 5,402 | 16,572 |
| Warrington | 8,723 | 4,633 | 13,356 |
| Wigan | 3,156 | 15,966 | 19,122 |
| Wirral | 19,405 | 3,899 | 23,304 |
| | | | |
| *Yorkshire and the Humber* | 216,440 | 116,800 | 333,250 |
| Barnsley | 2,105 | 10,836 | 12,941 |
| Bradford | 33,889 | 731 | 34,620 |
| Calderdale | 14,312 | 1,312 | 15,624 |
| Doncaster | 17,528 | 3,014 | 20,542 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 21,803 | 843 | 22,646 |
| Kingston Upon Hull, City of | 2,506 | 11,239 | 13,745 |
| Kirklees | 7,730 | 18,188 | 25,918 |
| Leeds | 42,242 | 3,809 | 46,051 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 4,665 | 5,021 | 9,686 |
| North Lincolnshire | 2,437 | 7,568 | 10,005 |

*State-funded secondary schools[1,2]: number of pupils[3] in schools with and without a sixth form—January 2010*

*Government office region and local authority area in England*

| | *State-funded secondary schools[1,2]* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number of pupils in schools with a sixth form[4]* | *Number of pupils in schools without a sixth form* | *Total pupils in state-funded secondary schools* |
| North Yorkshire | 27,168 | 13,144 | 40,312 |
| Rotherham | 12,067 | 7,424 | 19,491 |
| Sheffield | 12,823 | 17,770 | 30,593 |
| Wakefield | 9,052 | 12,083 | 21,135 |
| York | 6,116 | 3,820 | 9,936 |
| | | | |
| *East Midlands* | 216,620 | 78,830 | 295,440 |
| Derby | 12,542 | 3,801 | 16,343 |
| Derbyshire | 35,915 | 13,035 | 48,950 |
| Leicester | 4,224 | 13,738 | 17,962 |
| Leicestershire | 23,390 | 22,232 | 45,622 |
| Lincolnshire | 36,728 | 12,649 | 49,377 |
| Northamptonshire | 44,962 | 3,089 | 48,051 |
| Nottingham | 9,144 | 5,798 | 14,942 |
| Nottinghamshire | 49,713 | 2,107 | 51,820 |
| Rutland | 0 | 2,376 | 2,376 |
| | | | |
| *West Midlands* | 236,750 | 128,440 | 365,180 |
| Birmingham | 44,341 | 25,282 | 69,623 |
| Coventry | 20,766 | 0 | 20,766 |
| Dudley | 2,399 | 17,379 | 19,778 |
| Herefordshire | 3,997 | 6,071 | 10,068 |
| Sandwell | 13,890 | 6,564 | 20,454 |
| Shropshire | 7,701 | 9,521 | 17,222 |
| Solihull | 9,966 | 7,104 | 17,070 |
| Staffordshire | 46,631 | 11,031 | 57,662 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 3,110 | 10,143 | 13,253 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 3,959 | 7,886 | 11,845 |
| Walsall | 20,845 | 0 | 20,845 |
| Warwickshire | 20,078 | 13,813 | 33,891 |
| Wolverhampton | 15,498 | 0 | 15,498 |
| Worcestershire | 23,565 | 13,644 | 37,209 |
| | | | |
| *East of England* | 269,280 | 121,380 | 390,660 |
| Bedford | 7,680 | 7,227 | 14,907 |
| Central Bedfordshire | 11,594 | 10,870 | 22,464 |
| Cambridgeshire | 18,205 | 14,541 | 32,746 |
| Essex | 59,515 | 29,601 | 89,116 |
| Hertfordshire | 79,023 | 2,185 | 81,208 |
| Luton | 1,437 | 10,859 | 12,296 |
| Norfolk | 32,908 | 17,035 | 49,943 |
| Peterborough | 13,380 | 0 | 13,380 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 12,432 | 601 | 13,033 |
| Suffolk | 30,961 | 21,676 | 52,637 |
| Thurrock | 2,146 | 6,781 | 8,927 |
| | | | |
| *London* | 344,680 | 108,790 | 453,460 |
| | | | |
| *Inner London* | 89,900 | 51,510 | 141,420 |
| Camden | 9,910 | 0 | 9,910 |
| City of London | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Hackney | 5,418 | 3,133 | 8,551 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 3,673 | 3,381 | 7,054 |
| Haringey | 8,593 | 4,617 | 13,210 |
| Islington | 4,111 | 3,979 | 8,090 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 2,264 | 1,339 | 3,603 |
| Lambeth | 7,468 | 2,460 | 9,928 |
| Lewisham | 8,779 | 5,400 | 14,179 |

*State-funded secondary schools[1,2]: number of pupils[3] in schools with and without a sixth form—January 2010*

*Government office region and local authority area in England*

| | *State-funded secondary schools[1,2]* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number of pupils in schools with a sixth form[4]* | *Number of pupils in schools without a sixth form* | *Total pupils in state-funded secondary schools* |
| Newham | 2,677 | 15,749 | 18,426 |
| Southwark | 7,427 | 5,699 | 13,126 |
| Tower Hamlets | 10,345 | 4,438 | 14,783 |
| Wandsworth | 11,058 | 452 | 11,510 |
| Westminster | 8,181 | 867 | 9,048 |
| | | | |
| *Outer London* | 254,770 | 57,270 | 312,050 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 13,215 | 0 | 13,215 |
| Barnet | 19,506 | 2,020 | 21,526 |
| Bexley | 16,805 | 3,189 | 19,994 |
| Brent | 17,862 | 115 | 17,977 |
| Bromley | 22,648 | 0 | 22,648 |
| Croydon | 10,039 | 11,235 | 21,274 |
| Ealing | 16,689 | 1,184 | 17,873 |
| Enfield | 21,715 | 543 | 22,258 |
| Greenwich | 9,318 | 5,180 | 14,498 |
| Harrow | 8,747 | 1,455 | 10,202 |
| Havering | 5,754 | 10,921 | 16,675 |
| Hillingdon | 18,009 | 598 | 18,607 |
| Hounslow | 16,684 | 0 | 16,684 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 10,025 | 0 | 10,025 |
| Merton | 4,232 | 4,338 | 8,570 |
| Redbridge | 21,649 | 0 | 21,649 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 0 | 6,658 | 6,658 |
| Sutton | 16,894 | 0 | 16,894 |
| Waltham Forest | 4,981 | 9,837 | 14,818 |
| | | | |
| *South East* | 353,250 | 157,550 | 510,790 |
| Bracknell Forest | 6,368 | 0 | 6,368 |
| Brighton and Hove | 6,522 | 5,769 | 12,291 |
| Buckinghamshire | 34,929 | 0 | 34,929 |
| East Sussex | 11,361 | 16,386 | 27,747 |
| Hampshire | 9,560 | 60,572 | 70,132 |
| Isle of Wight | 5,654 | 5,809 | 11,463 |
| Kent | 94,874 | 6,341 | 101,215 |
| Medway | 19,156 | 439 | 19,595 |
| Milton Keynes | 16,737 | 0 | 16,737 |
| Oxfordshire | 31,320 | 5,345 | 36,665 |
| Portsmouth | 0 | 9,090 | 9,090 |
| Reading | 6,413 | 0 | 6,413 |
| Slough | 10,071 | 0 | 10,071 |
| Southampton | 1,121 | 9,238 | 10,359 |
| Surrey | 39,120 | 20,628 | 59,748 |
| West Berkshire | 12,134 | 0 | 12,134 |
| West Sussex | 29,628 | 15,694 | 45,322 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 8,138 | 2,153 | 10,291 |
| Wokingham | 10,141 | 83 | 10,224 |
| | | | |
| *South West* | 216,510 | 107,920 | 324,420 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 10,497 | 2,093 | 12,590 |
| Bournemouth | 5,008 | 4,764 | 9,772 |
| Bristol, City of | 9,362 | 8,154 | 17,516 |
| Cornwall | 18,021 | 13,936 | 31,957 |
| Devon | 27,516 | 15,224 | 42,740 |
| Dorset | 20,318 | 9,484 | 29,802 |
| Gloucestershire | 28,875 | 11,051 | 39,926 |
| Isles of Scilly | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| North Somerset | 8,407 | 4,352 | 12,759 |

*State-funded secondary schools[1,2]: number of pupils[3] in schools with and without a sixth form—January 2010*

| *Government office region and local authority area in England* | *State-funded secondary schools[1,2]* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number of pupils in schools with a sixth form[4]* | *Number of pupils in schools without a sixth form* | *Total pupils in state-funded secondary schools* |
| Plymouth | 17,535 | 688 | 18,223 |
| Poole | 7,471 | 989 | 8,460 |
| Somerset | 10,266 | 21,010 | 31,276 |
| South Gloucestershire | 17,518 | 921 | 18,439 |
| Swindon | 4,051 | 8,383 | 12,434 |
| Torbay | 6,864 | 1,860 | 8,724 |
| Wiltshire | 24,799 | 5,007 | 29,806 |

n/a = Not applicable. No schools of this type.

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Includes sole and dual main registered pupils.

[4] Schools with eight or more pupils aged 16 to 18 as at 31 August 2009.

*Note:*

National and regional totals have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.

*Source:*

School Census

## Supplementary Schools: Attendance

**Angie Bray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate his Department has made of the number of pupils attending supplementary schools; and what assessment he has made of the effects of such attendance on mainstream educational attainment. [36982]

**Mr Gibb:** In February 2010, the Department published research on the impact of supplementary schools by the London metropolitan university and the National Centre for Social Research. This research estimated that between 3% and 8% of all pupils aged five to 16 were in contact with supplementary schools at any one time.

Qualitative research as part of this project showed a perception amongst parents, local authority and staff, that attendance at supplementary schools increased children's attainment at mainstream school, improving their confidence and pupils' interest, motivation and engagement with education.

## Sure Start: Bolton

**Yasmin Qureshi:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department has withdrawn any previously-allocated Sure Start funding in *(a)* Bolton South East constituency, *(b)* Bolton and *(c)* England for (i) 2010-11 and (ii) the next four financial years. [44829]

**Sarah Teather:** The Early Intervention Grant is a new un-ring-fenced and un-hypothecated funding stream which from 1 April 2011 will give local authorities greater flexibility to target resources strategically and intervene early to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. The Government have ensured there is enough money within the Early Intervention Grant to maintain a network of Sure Start Children's Centres, accessible to all but identifying and supporting families in greatest need. To date only the EIG funding for the financial years 2011-12 and 2012-13 has been announced and is only available by local authority—the figures for Bolton and all other local authorities in England are available at:

http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/xls/e/early%20intervention%20grant%20-%20final%20allocations%20methodology.xls

Up to the end of the 2010-11 financial year funding for Sure Start Children's Centres has been made through the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant (SSEYCG).

The base allocations for Sure Start Children's Centres for the financial year 2010-11 remain as announced at the start of the 2008-11 comprehensive spending review period. For Bolton and England those figures are as follows:

| | *Bolton* | *England* |
|---|---|---|
| 2010-11 Revenue Allocation—Children's Centres and SSLPs | 7,605,837 | 1,135,147,893 |
| 2010-11 Capital Allocation—Children's Centres | 391,912 | 100,999,997 |

The Department does not allocate funding at constituency level. It is for local authorities to determine how best to allocate available funding within their areas. The allocations for all local authorities can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/earlylearningandchildcare/a0071955/sure-start-early-years-and-childcare-grant-and-aiming-high-for-disabled-children-ahdc-grant-la-funding-allocations-for-2010-11

Published allocations for Sure Start Children's Centres are not individually ring-fenced within the main revenue block of the SSEYCG and therefore are notional. Local authorities have the freedom to spend the available funding flexibly within that block to best meet local objectives and priorities, subject to the terms and conditions set out in the Memorandum of Grant letter.

In addition to the capital base allocation the Department had been able to offer some carry-forward of unspent SSEYCG capital funding from prior years. Given the unprecedented fiscal deficit the Department restricted carry-forward of SSEYCG capital (which includes Sure Start Children's Centres) to cases where funding was required for the completion of the children's centres programme, or where there was evidence of a contractual commitment either with a building contractor or for goods.

The Department's calculations of carry-forward are predicated on levels of expenditure from prior years. We are awaiting audited financial returns from a number of local authorities, at which point carry-forward for all local authorities will be finalised.

### Teachers: Pensions

**Julian Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the status of any pension fund liabilities for non-teaching staff employed in schools that become academies. [44708]

**Mr Gibb:** Academy Funding Agreements require Academy Trusts to offer Local Government Pension scheme (LGPS) membership to all non-teaching staff. The Commercial Transfer Agreement (CTA), which includes LGPS arrangements, sets out the Department's policy that liabilities are calculated on the basis of the academy's staff profile of eligible employees.

### Teachers: Vetting

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what reasons he has made it his policy to make the list of barred teachers publicly available. [46821]

**Mr Gibb:** Under proposals in the Education Bill, there will be a list of teachers who are barred from the profession. As under the current General Teaching Council for England system of regulation, we propose that employers and members of the public will be able to access information on the list of those who have been prohibited from teaching. We want employers and the public to have confidence in the profession and to ensure that those who have been barred from teaching are not re-employed as teachers. By providing public access to the list, employers will able to check that any potential employees have not been barred and the members of the public more generally would be able to assure themselves that whoever is teaching their children has not been barred.

### Vocational Guidance

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 288-89W, on vocational guidance, if he will make available additional funding to prevent redundancies in local authority and Connexions services *(a)* before 31 March 2011 and *(b)* to the establishment of the All-Age Careers Service. [44619]

**Mr Gibb:** The new Early Intervention Grant will provide a substantial funding stream (a total of £2,222 million in 2011-12 and £2,307 million in 2012-13) with new flexibility to enable local authorities to act more strategically and target spending early, where it will have the greatest impact. The organisation of services is for local authorities to determine, in the light of their statutory responsibilities. Any changes that may be necessary in the current provision of careers guidance services will be for local authorities to work through, involving, where appropriate, Connexions service providers.

### Voluntary Organisations: Finance

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the monetary value was of the strategic grants his Department has made to third sector organisations in each year since 2007-08; and how much funding he plans to provide through such grants in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15. [19275]

**Sarah Teather** *[holding answer 25 October 2010]:* There is no single definition of what is meant by the term "strategic grant" and it is therefore not possible to give a comprehensive answer. The voluntary sector receives money directly from the Department and its arm's length bodies, through the money we give to local authorities and from services commissioned by schools. However, some examples of grants that have in the past been given for purposes that could be deemed strategic include the Children, Young People and Families Grant Fund 2010-11 which allocated some £12 million in grants for capacity building.

On 25 February, Ministers announced the results of the new DfE grants competition which is worth some £120 million over two years. As part of that we have started a new strategic partners programme which will fund 5 strategic partners to work with us, and we are also awarding funding for capacity building. Those two aspects of the grants programme are worth some £22 million over two years.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Teresa Pearce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer question 26511, on student financial support in further education, tabled on 22 November 2010 for ordinary written answer. [34171]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 17 January 2011]:* A response to the hon. Member's question was issued on 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1107-08W.

### Young Apprentices Scheme: Education Business Partnership

**Richard Graham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects to announce the local authority funding arrangement for the *(a)* Young Apprenticeship Scheme and *(b)* Education Business Partnership. [44414]

**Mr Gibb:** We plan to announce decisions shortly. I will write to my hon. Friend.

### Young People: Unemployment

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of young people aged between 16 and 19 years did not attend school or were not in employment in each *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* constituency in each year for which figures are available. [35711]

**Mr Gibb:** Estimates of participation in education, training and employment for those aged 16 to 18 are published by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June and can be found on the Department's website:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000938/index.shtml

The SFR also contains additional tables that show the number and proportion of young people who participate in education and work based training in each local authority. However, these estimates only cover 16 and 17-year-olds, and they do not include information on young people's employment.

Connexions Services collect information on the proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) in each local authority area in England. These have been published annually on the DfE website since 2006:

http://www.education.gov.uk/16to19/participation/neet/a0064101/strategies-for-16-to-18-year-olds-not-in-education-employment-or-training-neet

Figures for 2006-09 are shown in the following table. Figures for 2010 are due to be published on 31 March 2011. These cannot be broken down by parliamentary constituency.

*Proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training*

| | | | | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
| *England* | 7.7 | 6.7 | 6.7 | 6.4 |
| | | | | |
| *South East* | 5.6 | 5.3 | 5.7 | 5.8 |
| Bracknell Forest | 6.4 | 5.2 | 6.9 | 6.8 |
| Brighton and Hove | 10.9 | 9.3 | 7.8 | 8.8 |
| Buckinghamshire | 3.2 | 2.7 | 3.7 | 4.6 |
| East Sussex | 8.0 | 7.7 | 7.2 | 7.3 |
| Hampshire | 5.2 | 5.2 | 6.3 | 5.7 |
| Isle of Wight | 5.9 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 6.9 |
| Kent | 6.4 | 5.2 | 4.7 | 4.9 |
| Medway | 6.1 | 5.6 | 9.5 | 5.8 |
| Milton Keynes | 6.5 | 5.8 | 5.9 | 5.8 |
| Oxfordshire | 4.8 | 4.2 | 6.3 | 6.5 |
| Portsmouth | 9.9 | 9.6 | 9.9 | 11.1 |
| Reading | 7.3 | 8.4 | 8.6 | 6.5 |
| Slough | 5.4 | 5.8 | 5.3 | 6.0 |
| Southampton | 9.4 | 9.4 | 9.4 | 9.7 |
| Surrey | 3.3 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 4.1 |
| West Berkshire | 5.2 | 4.4 | 4.7 | 5.2 |
| West Sussex | 4.5 | 4.4 | 5.4 | 5.9 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 4.2 | 4.1 | 5.1 | 5.5 |
| Wokingham | 4.8 | 5.0 | 6.0 | 6.3 |
| | | | | |
| *London* | 7.5 | 6.4 | 5.8 | 5.3 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 11.4 | 9.7 | 8.9 | 7.9 |
| Barnet | 4.8 | 4.6 | 4.1 | 3.8 |
| Bexley | 6.9 | 6.5 | 5.3 | 5.0 |
| Brent | 6.7 | 5.7 | 4.6 | 4.6 |
| Bromley | 5.0 | 4.7 | 4.6 | 4.2 |
| Camden | 7.5 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 5.5 |
| City of London | 1.1 | 1.0 | 0.6 | 0.6 |
| Croydon | 8.1 | 7.6 | 7.1 | 6.9 |
| Ealing | 7.8 | 5.9 | 5.4 | 4.9 |
| Enfield | 7.0 | 7.2 | 6.4 | 6.1 |
| Greenwich | 12.0 | 9.6 | 9.5 | 6.6 |
| Hackney | 13.1 | 11.7 | 10.0 | 7.4 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 8.4 | 7.0 | 6.0 | 5.6 |
| Haringey | 12.5 | 10.3 | 6.8 | 6.8 |
| Harrow | 5.3 | 2.7 | 3.2 | 2.9 |
| Havering | 6.1 | 5.8 | 5.2 | 4.7 |
| Hillingdon | 7.0 | 5.7 | 5.3 | 5.4 |
| Hounslow | 8.3 | 6.4 | 5.5 | 4.7 |
| Islington | 8.6 | 9.5 | 7.7 | 7.3 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 7.9 | 5.8 | 5.4 | 5.0 |
| ~~Kingston~~ | 3.4 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.4 |
| Lambeth | 10.5 | 9.8 | 7.9 | 7.6 |
| Lewisham | 6.7 | 6.1 | 5.5 | 4.9 |
| Merton | 6.7 | 6.1 | 5.8 | 5.6 |
| Newham | 10.8 | 8.7 | 7.7 | 6.7 |
| Redbridge | 4.8 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.1 |

*Proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training*

| | | | | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
| Richmond | 4.0 | 2.6 | 3.4 | 3.5 |
| Southwark | 11.7 | 10.0 | 8.8 | 8.7 |
| Sutton | 4.8 | 4.6 | 4.4 | 4.4 |
| Tower Hamlets | 10.9 | 8.2 | 6.7 | 6.0 |
| Waltham Forest | 6.3 | 5.4 | 4.7 | 4.5 |
| Wandsworth | 6.0 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.3 |
| Westminster | 6.5 | 5.3 | 5.0 | 4.6 |
| | | | | |
| *East of England* | 6.8 | 5.8 | 6.2 | 5.9 |
| Bedford Borough | — | — | — | 5.6 |
| Bedfordshire | 7.2 | 6.5 | 5.8 | — |
| Cambridgeshire | 5.4 | 5.0 | 5.2 | 5.4 |
| Central Bedfordshire | — | — | — | 6.3 |
| Essex | 6.9 | 5.6 | 6.7 | 6.9 |
| Hertfordshire | 4.6 | 4.0 | 5.0 | 3.6 |
| Luton | 9.4 | 7.2 | 7.3 | 6.5 |
| Norfolk | 7.9 | 6.2 | 5.2 | 5.4 |
| Peterborough | 9.5 | 8.4 | 9.1 | 8.8 |
| Southend | 7.0 | 5.9 | 7.0 | 5.6 |
| Suffolk | 8.4 | 7.2 | 7.9 | 7.4 |
| Thurrock | 7.8 | 7.4 | 7.2 | 6.6 |
| | | | | |
| *South West* | 6.0 | 5.5 | 5.7 | 5.6 |
| Bath and NE Somerset | 4.2 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 4.2 |
| Bournemouth | 8.5 | 8.4 | 8.2 | 6.7 |
| Bristol | 7.8 | 7.3 | 7.9 | 7.7 |
| Cornwall | 6.1 | 5.8 | 6.1 | 5.7 |
| Devon | 6.0 | 5.9 | 6.4 | 5.7 |
| Dorset | 6.8 | 5.5 | 6.2 | 6.7 |
| Gloucestershire | 4.6 | 4.0 | 3.8 | 4.0 |
| Isles of Scilly | — | — | — | — |
| North Somerset | 4.8 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 3.9 |
| Plymouth | 7.4 | 6.8 | 7.4 | 6.7 |
| Poole | 6.2 | 5.8 | 5.4 | 5.5 |
| Somerset | 4.8 | 4.3 | 3.8 | 4.4 |
| South Gloucestershire | 5.0 | 4.3 | 4.5 | 4.4 |
| Swindon | 8.3 | 6.2 | 8.0 | 8.2 |
| Torbay | 6.8 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 3.6 |
| Wiltshire | 6.0 | 5.8 | 6.3 | 6.1 |
| | | | | |
| *West Midlands* | 8.9 | 7.1 | 7.0 | 6.6 |
| Birmingham | 11.4 | 7.7 | 8.1 | 7.7 |
| Coventry | 8.7 | 6.8 | 6.7 | 6.9 |
| Dudley | 6.4 | 5.6 | 5.3 | 4.9 |
| Herefordshire | 5.5 | 5.4 | 5.8 | 5.9 |
| Sandwell | 15.6 | 12.3 | 11.6 | 10.2 |
| Shropshire | 5.2 | 4.5 | 5.2 | 4.7 |
| Solihull | 8.0 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 6.1 |
| Staffordshire | 7.6 | 5.8 | 5.3 | 5.1 |
| Stoke on Trent | 16.1 | 13.3 | 11.9 | 9.8 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 9.1 | 9.7 | 9.9 | 9.4 |
| Walsall | 9.1 | 9.1 | 8.3 | 8.1 |
| Warwickshire | 6.7 | 5.8 | 5.8 | 5.6 |
| Wolverhampton | 10.8 | 9.3 | 8.2 | 7.6 |
| Worcestershire | 5.5 | 4.6 | 5.3 | 5.5 |
| | | | | |
| *East Midlands* | 6.4 | 5.6 | 5.4 | 5.5 |
| Derby City | 8.4 | 7.9 | 7.2 | 7.1 |
| Derbyshire | 7.1 | 6.5 | 6.7 | 7.5 |
| Leicester City | 9.9 | 8.9 | 8.4 | 7.6 |

*Proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training*

| | | | | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
| Leicestershire County | 5.5 | 4.6 | 4.4 | 3.9 |
| Lincolnshire | 5.0 | 4.1 | 4.4 | 4.8 |
| Northamptonshire | 6.4 | 5.6 | 5.4 | 5.2 |
| Nottingham | 8.0 | 6.0 | 5.5 | 5.4 |
| Nottinghamshire | 4.9 | 4.5 | 4.3 | 4.7 |
| Rutland | 2.0 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.9 |
| | | | | |
| *Yorks and the Humber* | 9.3 | 8.2 | 7.9 | 7.8 |
| Barnsley | 12.3 | 8.1 | 7.9 | 7.9 |
| Bradford | 9.8 | 9.4 | 8.8 | 8.6 |
| Calderdale | 9.7 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.7 |
| Doncaster | 11.5 | 8.2 | 7.7 | 7.5 |
| East Riding | 5.6 | 5.8 | 4.0 | 5.6 |
| Kingston upon Hull | 14.1 | 11.3 | 10.6 | 9.5 |
| Kirklees | 9.7 | 8.8 | 9.7 | 9.4 |
| Leeds | 9.1 | 10.0 | 9.5 | 8.2 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 9.8 | 6.6 | 6.4 | 6.3 |
| North Lincolnshire | 9.2 | 7.3 | 6.2 | 9.2 |
| North Yorkshire | 4.8 | 3.8 | 4.8 | 4.4 |
| Rotherham | 10.8 | 9.2 | 6.9 | 7.9 |
| Sheffield | 10.5 | 9.5 | 8.5 | 8.5 |
| Wakefield | 10.6 | 9.8 | 10.2 | 9.3 |
| York | 5.9 | 3.8 | 4.2 | 4.3 |
| | | | | |
| *North West* | 8.9 | 7.9 | 7.8 | 7.3 |
| Blackburn-Darwen | 7.4 | 7.6 | 7.2 | 6.7 |
| Blackpool | 8.8 | 7.3 | 7.0 | 6.7 |
| Bolton | 12.7 | 11.8 | 10.5 | 10.6 |
| Bury | 8.0 | 6.5 | 6.4 | 5.6 |
| Cheshire | 5.4 | 4.7 | 5.4 | — |
| Cheshire East | — | — | — | 5.6 |
| Cheshire West and Chester | — | — | — | 5.4 |
| Cumbria | 5.8 | 9.5 | 5.0 | 4.5 |
| Halton | 11.8 | 11.5 | 13.2 | 10.2 |
| Knowsley | 13.7 | 15.0 | 14.4 | 10.6 |
| Lancashire County | 7.7 | 7.3 | 6.6 | 7.1 |
| Liverpool | 13.2 | 11.5 | 10.4 | 8.7 |
| Manchester | 11.4 | 9.5 | 10.1 | 9.5 |
| Oldham | 8.8 | 7.7 | 7.1 | 7.2 |
| Rochdale | 12.1 | 10.9 | 10.6 | 10.2 |
| Salford | 10.2 | 7.6 | 8.1 | 6.6 |
| Sefton | 7.6 | 7.2 | 7.6 | 6.5 |
| St. Helens | 10.0 | 8.5 | 8.1 | 7.5 |
| Stockport | 8.8 | 6.9 | 7.1 | 7.5 |
| Tameside | 9.1 | 8.1 | 8.1 | 7.8 |
| Trafford | 7.3 | 6.6 | 6.3 | 5.4 |
| Warrington | 7.0 | 5.8 | 7.2 | 5.6 |
| Wigan | 9.9 | 8.2 | 8.5 | 7.1 |
| Wirral | 10.0 | 9.5 | 9.1 | 9.1 |
| | | | | |
| *North East* | 11.4 | 10.0 | 9.8 | 9.0 |
| County Durham | 12.9 | 10.4 | 10.8 | 9.9 |
| Darlington | 6.7 | 7.5 | 6.9 | 7.1 |
| Gateshead | 12.3 | 10.4 | 10.2 | 8.8 |
| Hartlepool | 11.1 | 8.5 | 7.9 | 7.4 |
| Middlesbrough | 13.7 | 11.1 | 10.5 | 9.6 |
| Newcastle | 9.4 | 9.3 | 8.5 | 7.8 |
| North Tyneside | 11.4 | 8.8 | 9.0 | 8.1 |
| Northumberland | 10.0 | 8.1 | 6.3 | 7.3 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 11.9 | 12.1 | 12.0 | 11.8 |

*Proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training*

*Percentage*

| | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| South Tyneside | 11.3 | 10.6 | 10.2 | 9.0 |
| Stockton on Tees | 9.9 | 9.5 | 10.5 | 11.1 |
| Sunderland | 13.3 | 12.8 | 13.2 | 9.5 |

*Source:*
CCIS

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Recall of Members of Parliament

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he plans to publish his proposals to enable electors in a parliamentary constituency to recall their elected hon. Member. [47650]

**Mr Harper:** The Government are committed to bringing forward legislation to introduce a power, to recall Members of Parliament where they have engaged in serious wrongdoing. We are currently considering what would be the fairest, most appropriate and robust procedure.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Departmental Public Bodies

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information on costs including *(a)* consultancy, *(b)* interims, *(c)* professional services, *(d)* legal fees and *(e)* advertising and marketing incurred by public bodies sponsored by his Department is collected centrally. [47401]

**Robert Neill** *[holding answer 17 March 2011]:* The Department's Finance Division do not currently collect data, at the level requested, from public bodies sponsored by the Department. However from 2011-12 under the new 'Single Administration budget' public bodies sponsored by the Department will be required to provide monthly monitoring information at a more detailed level.

However, information on purchasing including *(a)* consultancy, *(b)* interims, *(c)* professional services, *(d)* legal fees and *(e)* advertising and marketing incurred by public bodies sponsored by this Department is collected centrally by the Department for the annual Public Sector Procurement Expenditure Survey (PSPES).

Spending over £500 on goods and services is published online by my Department and its arm's length bodies, as part of the new Government's transparency initiative.

### EU Grants and Loans: North East

**Sir Alan Beith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any staff dealing with European funding bids are to be transferred from One North East to his Department. [40624]

**Robert Neill** *[holding answer 14 February 2011]:* Yes. The existing ERDF staff working in One North East will be transferred to my Department by the beginning of July.

### Local Government Finance

**Mr Blunkett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he provides guidance to local authorities on the proportion of their top-tier budgets that should be held as a reserve over the comprehensive spending review period. [47372]

**Robert Neill:** I refer the right hon. Member to a letter sent by the Under-Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Hazel Grove (Andrew Stunell), to local authorities on 27 January 2011. A copy is available in the Library of the House.

### Planning Permission: Halifax

**Mrs Riordan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of planning applications in Halifax have been refused in the last 12 months. [44552]

**Robert Neill:** In the six months ending September 2010, Calderdale (the local authority of which Halifax is a part) refused 19% of all planning decisions. As the latest published information is for July to September 2010 the most recent information we can provide is for the six months ending September 2010.

### Rented Housing: Cannabis

**Mr Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what responsibility landlords have to ensure that their tenants do not grow cannabis in rented premises. [47821]

**Andrew Stunell:** It is usual practice for both social and private sector landlords to have a standard term prohibiting criminal activity in their tenancy agreements. If the prohibition is breached, this allows them to seek possession of their property without having to wait for a conviction. Where a written tenancy agreement is not in place, as is possible in the private rented sector, a landlord can rely on ground 14 in schedule 2 of the Housing Act 1988 which allows possession where a tenant has been convicted of allowing their property to be used for an illegal purpose.

Local authorities may introduce selective licensing schemes in areas suffering from significant and persistent antisocial behaviour. Landlords of privately rented properties within a selective licensing designation will have to be identified to the local authority as 'fit and proper' persons and will be required to take appropriate steps to deal with their tenants' antisocial behaviour. However, licensing is not designed to tackle serious criminal activity, which is a matter for the police.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Child Tax Credit

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of ensuring that childcare is provided for families affected by the total cap on benefit entitlement. [47757]

**Maria Miller:** Support for child care costs is provided to those in receipt of working tax credit. We have announced that households which include a member that is in receipt of working tax credit will be exempt from the benefit cap. In this way the benefit cap will support our plans to ensure work pays.

We are still considering the precise criteria for an equivalent exemption from the cap under universal credit. Support for childcare costs will be provided by an additional element as part of universal credit.

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of ensuring that childcare is provided for families affected by the total cap on benefit entitlement where childcare costs are covered up to *(a)* 60% *(b)* 70% and *(c)* 80% [47758]

**Maria Miller:** Support for child care costs is provided to those in receipt of working tax credit. We have announced that households which include a member that is in receipt of working tax credit will be exempt from the benefit cap. In this way the benefit cap will support our plans to ensure work pays.

We are still considering the precise criteria for an equivalent exemption from the cap under universal credit. Support for childcare costs will be provided by an additional element as part of universal credit.

### Cold Weather Payments: Care Homes

**Guto Bebb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will issue guidance to residential care homes on best practice in distributing cold weather payments to their residents. [46724]

**Steve Webb:** People who live in residential care homes are not eligible for cold weather payments as they are not responsible for meeting additional heating costs during periods of extreme cold.

### Crisis Loans

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to his Department's impact assessment on proposed amendments to payment on account provisions, what estimate he has made of the potential effect of his proposals on the number of successful applicants for the proposed loans to replace crisis loans. [46386]

**Steve Webb:** The amended payments on account provisions will provide a simple and efficient method for dealing with the issue of alignment once Social Fund crisis loans are abolished. We do not anticipate any significant effect on success rates due to this change.

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to his Department's impact assessment on amendments to payment on account provisions, when he expects to publish the details of his proposals for new arrangements for payments on account. [46387]

**Chris Grayling:** We intend that a new system of payments on account of benefit will replace interim payments of benefit, social fund crisis loan alignment payments and budgeting loans. Further detail will be made available during the parliamentary passage of the Welfare Reform Bill 2011.

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to his Department's impact assessment on proposals for the localisation of crisis loans and community grants; what estimate he has made of the potential effect of his proposals on the number of crisis loans; and what assumptions he has made of changes to the budget for crisis loans in each of the next five years. [46398]

**Steve Webb:** We plan to replace the current system of crisis loans from April 2013 with a combination of local provision (provided by local authorities in England) and payments on account of benefit administered by the Department for Work and Pensions.

The current system of crisis loans is poorly targeted and open to abuse, for example some 17,000 people received 10 or more crisis loans in the last 12 months. As outlined in my written ministerial statement of 3 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 45-46WS, we have had to take urgent action to bring spending on crisis loans back under control and ensure we can continue to meet genuine need. We need to monitor the effects of these short-term measures before we are in a position to provide detailed estimates of volumes of demand for the reformed provision.

The Government have committed to core funding (annually managed expenditure) of £178 million for the Discretionary Social Fund as a whole in each of the next four financial years. Funding in 2015-16 will be a matter for the next spending review. However, the budget for crisis loans is set on an annual basis and funding for the next financial year will be announced in a written ministerial statement shortly.

### Disability Living Allowance

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to his Department's impact assessment on reform of disability living allowance, what estimate he has made of the likely cost to *(a)* the NHS, *(b)* the Department of Health, *(c)* the Department for Communities and Local Government and *(d)* local authorities of implementation of his proposed reforms. [46388]

**Maria Miller:** There is no information available on the number of DLA recipients accessing health services or local authority services. We would expect individuals to be accessing the relevant support services, regardless of benefit receipt and do not expect the reforms to DLA to significantly impact health or local authority services. As a consequence we do not envisage these changes generating additional costs for the NHS, Department of Health, Department for Communities and Local Government or local authorities.

**Mr Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what training his Department plans to give to people who will be making future assessments on the entitlement to disability living allowance for people with autism; and if he will make a statement; [46513]

(2) what plans he has for future requirements for people with autism to undergo assessments when claiming disability living allowance; and if he will make a statement. [46514]

**Maria Miller:** The Government proposes to replace disability living allowance with personal independence payment in 2013-14. We are considering the most appropriate delivery model for the personal independence payment assessment. No decisions have been taken, including how it will apply to existing DLA recipients. As part of its successful delivery, we know it will be vital to ensure that appropriate training and guidance are provided for assessors. It will also be important for the assessment process to be appropriate to individual's circumstances, including individuals with autistic spectrum disorders.

Both I and departmental officials have met with the National Autistic Society to discuss our reform proposals and to seek their views on how the new benefit can best support those with autism. We agree with many of the points raised in the National Autistic Society's recent report on DLA reform, "Who benefits?", and we are looking closely at how these recommendations can be incorporated into its design. We are keen to continue to work with disabled people and their organisations as the detail of the assessment criteria and its operation is developed and tested, and we will also seek their involvement to ensure that we get the training and guidance right.

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on the application of his proposed reform of disability living allowance to people under the age of 16. [46739]

**Maria Miller:** Personal independence payment will replace disability living allowance for working-age (16-64) adults from 2013 and the new objective assessment is being designed to gather information about adult needs. We want to build on the experience of developing an assessment and applying it to new and existing claimants of working-age to inform our decisions about the arrangements for children. Therefore we will not consider extending personal independence payment to new claims from children or to children already receiving DLA, until we have had an opportunity to consider the effectiveness of the new arrangements for working age people.

In developing the arrangements for children on DLA we also want to take account of ongoing work across Government. The Department for Education's Green Paper Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability, published on 10 March, sets out the Government's aspiration to move towards a single assessment process for a child's social care, health and special educational needs. The Department for Education plan to test the approach starting this year and we will look at the findings of the pathfinders to explore whether the single assessment process might also be used to support claims for the disability living allowance and personal independence payment.

### Disability Living Allowance: Care Homes

**Naomi Long:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to ensure that people with disabilities living in care homes are able to exercise choice and control following the proposed removal of the mobility component of disability living allowance for those in residential care. [37750]

**Maria Miller:** The Government's policy with regard to care home residents and their eligibility for DLA mobility is to remove any overlap of funding. We remain committed to promoting control as well as supporting independence in line with existing regulations.

Local authorities contract with care homes to meet the assessed needs of disabled people that fall within their eligibility criteria. Care homes must meet those contractual obligations and their conditions of registration which include promoting independent living.

### Disability Living Allowance: Autism

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consideration he has given to arrangements for the assessment for disability living allowance of people with autistic spectrum disorders who find face-to-face interviews stressful. [44967]

**Maria Miller:** We know it is essential that the assessment accurately captures the needs of disabled people with autistic spectrum disorders and this is something that the development group is considering. We are considering the delivery model for the personal independence payment assessment and no decisions have yet been taken, although we recognise the importance of ensuring that the assessment process is appropriate to individual's circumstances, including individuals with autistic spectrum disorders.

Both I and departmental officials have met with the National Autistic Society to discuss our reform proposals and to seek their views on how the new benefit can best support those with autism. We will continue to work with disabled people and their organisations as the detail of the assessment criteria and its operation is developed and tested.

### Employment Schemes

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish his Department's plan for the transition to the Work Programme. [46283]

**Chris Grayling:** I published a written ministerial statement on 14 February 2011, *Official Report,* column 68WS, announcing the Department's transitional arrangements from legacy provision to the new Work Programme. These arrangements will be managed at a local level in Contract Package Area to take account of the differences in each area.

### Fit for Work

**Sandra Osborne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what definition of fit for work his Department uses; what proportion of assessment of claimants of employment and support allowance resulted in an assessment of fitness to work in each of the last three years; what proportion of such assessments were appealed against in that period; and what proportion of such appeals was upheld. [43521]

**Maria Miller:** A person is found to be 'fit for work' if they do not have limited capability for work. They may be eligible to claim jobseeker's allowance.

A key factor in determining eligibility for employment and support allowance (ESA) is the work capability assessment (WCA), which is used to determine a claimant's capability for work.

Following a determination that the claimant has 'limited capability for work', they are placed in either the work related activity group or the support group.

Those placed in the work related activity group are expected to undertake some work-related activity with a view to moving into employment in the short to medium term.

Those people with the most severe health conditions or disabilities, are placed in the support group and are not expected to undertake work-related activity, although they can do so if they wish. It would not be realistic to expect them to move towards employment in the short-term.

The information requested on the proportion of people found fit for work and the number of appeals against these decisions is published on a quarterly basis. The latest publication for January 2011 is available here:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/esa_wca_25012011.pdf

Table 1 shows the volume and proportion of people found fit for work. Table 3 shows the number of appeals and the outcome of appeal. These tables are reproduced as follows:

*Table 1: Monthly ESA on-flows by month of claim start and result of initial functional assessment*

| | *Support group* | | *Work related activity group* | | *Fit for Work* | | *Claim closed before assessment complete* | | *Assessment still in progress* | | *Total* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Month of claim start* | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* |
| October 2008 | 700 | 8 | 1,200 | 13 | 3,600 | 39 | 3,700 | 40 | 100 | 1 | 9,300 | 100 |
| November 2008 | 2,900 | 6 | 5,900 | 13 | 17,500 | 39 | 18,200 | 41 | 200 | 1 | 44,800 | 100 |
| December 2008 | 2,700 | 7 | 5,600 | 14 | 15,200 | 38 | 16,600 | 41 | 200 | 1 | 40,300 | 100 |
| January 2009 | 3,200 | 6 | 7,700 | 15 | 21,000 | 39 | 21,000 | 39 | 300 | 1 | 53,300 | 100 |
| February 2009 | 2,900 | 6 | 7,200 | 15 | 19,800 | 40 | 19,200 | 39 | 400 | 1 | 49,500 | 100 |
| March 2009 | 3,300 | 6 | 8,400 | 15 | 23,500 | 41 | 20,900 | 37 | 500 | 1 | 56,700 | 100 |
| April 2009 | 3,200 | 6 | 8,200 | 16 | 21,800 | 42 | 18,800 | 36 | 500 | 1 | 52,400 | 100 |
| May 2009 | 3,300 | 6 | 8,200 | 15 | 22,000 | 41 | 19,100 | 36 | 400 | 1 | 53,100 | 100 |
| June 2009 | 3,400 | 6 | 9,000 | 16 | 22,700 | 40 | 21,200 | 37 | 600 | 1 | 56,800 | 100 |
| July 2009 | 3,800 | 7 | 9,300 | 16 | 22,800 | 40 | 21,200 | 37 | 700 | 1 | 57,700 | 100 |
| August 2009 | 3,300 | 6 | 8,700 | 17 | 20,400 | 40 | 18,600 | 36 | 600 | 1 | 51,600 | 100 |
| September 2009 | 3,700 | 7 | 9,500 | 17 | 21,800 | 39 | 19,400 | 35 | 800 | 2 | 55,300 | 100 |
| October 2009 | 3,300 | 6 | 8,900 | 17 | 21,200 | 40 | 18,900 | 36 | 1,100 | 2 | 53,300 | 100 |
| November 2009 | 3,300 | 6 | 8,500 | 16 | 20,500 | 39 | 18,600 | 36 | 1,300 | 2 | 52,300 | 100 |
| December 2009 | 2,900 | 7 | 7,400 | 17 | 16,800 | 38 | 16,100 | 35 | 1,300 | 3 | 44,500 | 100 |
| January 2010 | 3,300 | 6 | 9,500 | 17 | 21,900 | 39 | 20,100 | 35 | 1,900 | 3 | 56,700 | 100 |
| February 2010 | 3,100 | 6 | 8,900 | 16 | 21,400 | 39 | 18,700 | 34 | 2,500 | 5 | 54,500 | 100 |
| March 2010 | 3,400 | 6 | 9,200 | 15 | 23,100 | 39 | 20,400 | 34 | 3,500 | 6 | 59,700 | 100 |
| April 2010 | 3,200 | 6 | 8,600 | 16 | 20,300 | 37 | 18,200 | 34 | 4,100 | 8 | 54,300 | 100 |
| May 2010 | 2,900 | 6 | 7,600 | 15 | 18,700 | 36 | 17,700 | 34 | 5,700 | 11 | 52,500 | 100 |
| Total | 61,000 | 6 | 157,600 | 16 | 396,100 | 39 | 366,600 | 36 | 26,500 | 3 | 1,008,600 | 100 |

*Table 3: WCA appeals heard on 'Fit for Work' decision (initial assessments only)*

| *Month of claim start* | *Fit for Work* | *Appeals heard (to date)* | *Percentage Fit for Work with n appeal heard (to date)* | *Decision in favour of appellant* | *DWP decision upheld* | *Percentage decision in favour of appellant* | *Percentage DWP decision upheld* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| October 2008 | 3,600 | 1,500 | 41 | 600 | 900 | 40 | 60 |
| November 2008 | 17,500 | 7,200 | 41 | 2,800 | 4,400 | 40 | 60 |
| December 2008 | 15,200 | 6,400 | 42 | 2,700 | 3,800 | 41 | 59 |
| January 2009 | 21,000 | 8,900 | 42 | 3,600 | 5,300 | 40 | 60 |
| February 2009 | 19,800 | 8,100 | 41 | 3,300 | 4,800 | 41 | 59 |
| March 2009 | 23,500 | 9,400 | 40 | 3,800 | 5,500 | 41 | 59 |
| April 2009 | 21,800 | 8,300 | 38 | 3,400 | 4,900 | 41 | 59 |
| May 2009 | 22,000 | 8,000 | 36 | 3,200 | 4,600 | 40 | 60 |
| June 2009 | 22,700 | 7,600 | 33 | 3,100 | 4,500 | 41 | 59 |
| July 2009 | 22,800 | 7,100 | 31 | 2,700 | 4,300 | 39 | 61 |

*Table 3: WCA appeals heard on 'Fit for Work' decision (initial assessments only)*

| *Month of claim start* | *Fit for Work* | *Appeals heard (to date)* | *Percentage Fit for Work with n appeal heard (to date)* | *Decision in favour of appellant* | *DWP decision upheld* | *Percentage decision in favour of appellant* | *Percentage DWP decision upheld* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| August 2009 | 20,400 | 5,600 | 28 | 2,200 | 3,500 | 39 | 61 |
| September 2009 | 21,800 | 5,300 | 24 | 2,000 | 3,300 | 37 | 63 |
| October 2009 | 21,200 | 4,100 | 19 | 1,400 | 2,600 | 35 | 65 |
| November 2009 | 20,500 | 2,800 | 14 | 900 | 2,000 | 31 | 69 |
| Total | 273,900 | 90,300 | 33 | 35,800 | 54,600 | 40 | 60 |

Please note that due to the time it takes for appeals to be submitted to the Tribunals Service and heard, It is likely that there are more appeals that have not yet been heard, particularly for the most recent cohorts of ESA claims, as can be observed from the declining percentage of people found fit for work who appeal in Table 3. These figures should be treated as emerging findings and not final at this stage.

## Independent Living Fund

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of the closure of the independent living fund on the number of people requiring residential care. [43512]

**Maria Miller:** The independent living fund is a discretionary trust and payments from the fund do not take precedence over the responsibility of the local authority to make an assessment of a user's needs. Local authorities have the statutory responsibility to provide social care support to their residents including the assessment of those requiring residential care.

## Minister for Social Development

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what occasions he has met the Northern Ireland Minister for Social Development since his appointment. [46735]

**Chris Grayling:** The Secretary of State and Ministers for the Department for Work and Pensions have met with the Northern Ireland Minister for Social Development on the following occasions:

| *Minister* | *Date* | *Type of contact* |
|---|---|---|
| Secretary of State | 2 September 2010 | Meeting |
| Minister for Employment | 3 November 2010 | Meeting |
| Minister for Welfare reform | 19 July 2010 and 29 November 2010 | Meetings |
| Minister for Disabled People | 19 October 2010 | Telephone call |

## New Deal Schemes and Future Jobs Fund

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Glasgow, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Great Britain participated in (i) New Deal programmes, (ii) the Flexible New Deal and (iii) the Future Jobs Fund in each of the last four financial years. [47016]

**Chris Grayling:** The information requested is as follows:

*New Deal*

The number of people who participated in New Deal programmes within Great Britain, Scotland and Glasgow over the last four financial years is detailed within the following tables:

*Table 1: New Deal starters (spells) in Great Britain by year (April to March)*

*Caseload (thousand)*

| *Great Britain* | *New Deal for Young People* | *New Deal for 25 plus* | *New Deal for Lone Parents* | *New Deal for Disabled People* | *New Deal for 50 plus*[1] | *New Deal for Partners*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 186.50 | 104.80 | 134.36 | 63.41 | 16.98 | 2.25 |
| 2007-08 | 166.22 | 124.98 | 184.7 | 56.97 | 11.73 | 2.03 |
| 2008-09 | 195.4 | 102.69 | 186.49 | 36.94 | 9.26 | 2.18 |
| 2009-10 | 191.79 | 79.9 | 143.03 | 36 | 6.25 | 2.25 |
| 2010 (April to August) | 33.13 | 39.81 | 64.96 | 14.09 | 2.41 | 1.04 |

*Table 2: New Deal starters (spells) in Scotland by year (April to March)*

*Caseload (thousand)*

| *Scotland* | *New Deal for Young People* | *New Deal for 25 plus* | *New Deal for Lone Parents* | *New Deal for Disabled People* | *New Deal for 50 plus*[1] | *New Deal for Partners*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 17.45 | 9.82 | 16.00 | 7.44 | 1.98 | 0.27 |
| 2007-08 | 14.54 | 11.22 | 18.49 | 6.73 | 1.36 | 0.25 |

*Table 2: New Deal starters (spells) in Scotland by year (April to March)*

*Caseload (thousand)*

| *Scotland* | *New Deal for Young People* | *New Deal for 25 plus* | *New Deal for Lone Parents* | *New Deal for Disabled People* | *New Deal for 50 plus*[1] | *New Deal for Partners*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 16.93 | 8.13 | 20.66 | 6.11 | 1.36 | 0.27 |
| 2009-10 | 17.95 | 6.76 | 19.65 | 5.99 | 1.34 | 0.29 |
| 2010 (April to August) | 3.73 | 3.25 | 7.92 | 2.38 | 0.23 | 0.1 |

*Table 3: New Deal starters (spells) in Glasgow Local Authority by year (April-March)*

*Caseload (thousand)*

| *Glasgow local authority* | *New Deal for Young People* | *New Deal for 25 plus* | *New Deal for Lone Parents* | *New Deal for Disabled People* | *New Deal for 50 plus*[1] | *New Deal for Partners*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 2.24 | — | 2.24 | 1.53 | 0.16 | 0.02 |
| 2007-08 | 1.59 | — | 2.50 | 1.52 | 0.17 | 0.01 |
| 2008-09 | 1.88 | — | 3.15 | 1.83 | 0.17 | — |
| 2009-10 | 3.56 | — | 3.16 | 1.52 | 0.05 | — |
| 2010 (April to August) | 0.86 | 0.01 | 0.81 | 0.51 | 0.02 | — |

[1] Time series information is given as total number of spells on New Deal. A single claimant may have more than one spell on New Deal. The exception to this is ND50+ and ND for Partners where spells information is not available so individual level data are used instead. Total Starters on the New Deal (individuals) and Total Starters (spells)—where available—is also given.

*Notes*:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10; '—' indicates nil or negligible, 'n/a' indicates information not available.
2. Latest data are to August 2010.
3. The latest New Deal figures will be affected by the introduction of the new Jobseekers Regime and Flexible New Deal (gradual implementation started from April 2009). More information is readily available on the employment programme statistics landing page:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/tabtools/FND_tabtool_information.pdf
4. Starters on New Deals:
The New Deal for Young People pilots began in January 1998 and full national roll-out occurred in April 1998.
The New Deal for 25 plus programme was introduced in July 1998.
The New Deal for Lone Parents was introduced in October 1998.
Data on New Deal for Disabled People are available from July 2001 (programme was introduced in 1999).
Data on New Deal 50 plus are available from January 2004 (Jobs) January 2004 (Starts, Leavers) (programme was introduced in April 2000).
Data for New Deal for Partners are available from April 2004 (programme started in May 1999).
5. Employment Zones operate in Glasgow. Starters (spells) in the financial years 2006-07 to 2009-10 were respectively 5.73 thousand (2006-07); 5.77 thousand (2007-08), 5.55 thousand (2008-09) and 6.30 thousand (2009-10).

*Source*:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

*Future Jobs Fund*

Since its inception in October 2009, there have been 75,310 people in Great Britain who have participated in the Future Jobs Fund. This includes 7,740 people in Scotland and 1,090 people in Glasgow constituencies[1].

[1] Glasgow constituencies include: Glasgow Central, Glasgow East, Glasgow North, Glasgow North East, Glasgow North West, Glasgow South and Glasgow South West.

*Notes*:

1. Data source—DWP LMS opportunities evaluation database November2010.

2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

*Flexible New Deal*

The total number of starts to Flexible New Deal in Great Britain between October 2009 and August 2010 was 278,500. The number of starts in Scotland[1] covering the same period is 20,100. Lower geographical breakdowns are not available.

[1] Contract Package Area is a geographical area designated by the Department of Work and Pensions for the delivery of FND provision by contracted providers. Scottish provision is defined here as 'Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders, Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire, Ayrshire, Dumfries, Galloway and Inverclyde'.

*Notes*:

1. Sources: DWP Statistical Summary and Delivery Directorate Report.

2. Data Source: Provider, Referrals and Payment (PRaP) management information system.

3. Starts figures do not include starts from second or subsequent referrals to the same provider.

4. Please see FND information note available on the following website for further information and definitions:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=ddfnd

## Pensions: Financial Assistance Scheme

**Henry Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Financial Assistance Scheme values for the Norman Longley Pension scheme will be made available to members of that scheme. [46445]

**Steve Webb:** The Financial Assistance scheme provides assistance to members of qualifying pension schemes that began to wind up underfunded between 1997 and (generally) 2005. Final calculations can only be done when the scheme has completed the wind-up process, but members reaching normal pension age are paid initial payments on account on the basis of the best information available to the Scheme Manager.

As the administration of the FAS is the responsibility of the PPF, I have asked the Chief Executive of the PPF to write to the hon. Member directly about the current position of this scheme.

## Personal Income

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average income was of those in the *(a)* bottom 90% *(b)* top five to 10% *(c)* top 1% to 5%. and *(d)* top 1% of income in each of the last 30 years. [47654]

**Chris Grayling:** Available data is given in the following tables. Estimates of median equivalised household disposable incomes are available in the households below average income (HBAI) series. This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living. Data for the top 1% has not been provided due to the volatility of the data at the top end of the income distribution.

*Table 1: Median weekly equivalised disposable household income for the bottom 90%, the top 5% to 10% and top 1 to 5% of the income distribution, before housing costs, 1979 to 2008-09, in 2008-09 prices*

£

| | *Bottom 90%* | *Top 5% to 10%* | *Top 1% to 5%* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1979 (UK) | 241 | 484 | 599 |
| 1981 (UK) | 239 | 498 | 609 |
| 1987 (UK) | 270 | 637 | 832 |
| 1988-89 (UK) | 289 | 676 | 883 |
| 1990-91 (UK) | 298 | 735 | 979 |
| 1991-92 (UK) | 297 | 732 | 970 |
| 1992-93 (UK) | 297 | 724 | 969 |
| 1993-94 – 1994-95 (UK) | 304 | 729 | 1,003 |
| 1994-95 (GB) | 298 | 725 | 961 |
| 1995-96 (GB) | 299 | 726 | 973 |
| 1996-97 (GB) | 311 | 746 | 1,004 |
| 1997-98 (GB) | 319 | 765 | 1,024 |
| 1998-99 (GB) | 323 | 798 | 1,102 |
| 1999-2000 (GB) | 332 | 812 | 1,093 |
| 2000-01 (GB) | 343 | 838 | 1,156 |
| 2001-02 (GB) | 361 | 881 | 1,186 |
| 2002-03 (UK) | 367 | 887 | 1,181 |
| 2003-04 (UK) | 368 | 876 | 1,189 |
| 2004-05 (UK) | 372 | 884 | 1,217 |
| 2005-06 (UK) | 373 | 900 | 1,253 |
| 2006-07 (UK) | 376 | 912 | 1,256 |
| 2007-08 (UK) | 375 | 919 | 1,285 |
| 2008-09 (UK) | 381 | 927 | 1,287 |

*Table 2: Median weekly equivalised disposable household income for the bottom 90% the top five to 10% and top 1% to 5% of the income distribution, after housing costs, 1979 to 2008-09, in 2008-09 prices*

£

| *Year* | *Bottom 90%* | *Top 5% to 10%* | *Top 1% to 5%* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1979 (UK) | 190 | 389 | 490 |
| 1981 (UK) | 189 | 404 | 499 |
| 1987 (UK) | 213 | 516 | 685 |
| 1988/89 (UK) | 230 | 553 | 732 |
| 1990-91 (UK) | 235 | 592 | 820 |
| 1991-92 (UK) | 236 | 596 | 816 |
| 1992-93 (UK) | 235 | 597 | 823 |
| 1993-94 – 1994-95 (UK) | 239 | 610 | 843 |
| 1994-95 (GB) | 233 | 597 | 804 |
| 1995-96 (GB) | 234 | 602 | 821 |
| 1996-97 (GB) | 246 | 626 | 849 |
| 1997-98 (GB) | 252 | 637 | 873 |
| 1998-99 (GB) | 256 | 668 | 942 |
| 1999-2000 (GB) | 267 | 684 | 934 |
| 2000-01 (GB) | 280 | 716 | 993 |
| 2001-02 (GB) | 296 | 746 | 1,025 |
| 2002-03 (UK) | 305 | 767 | 1,039 |
| 2003-04 (UK) | 308 | 764 | 1,056 |
| 2004-05 (UK) | 313 | 783 | 1,087 |
| 2005-06 (UK) | 315 | 807 | 1,112 |
| 2006-07 (UK) | 318 | 813 | 1,142 |
| 2007-08 (UK) | 320 | 821 | 1,205 |

*Table 2: Median weekly equivalised disposable household income for the bottom 90% the top five to 10% and top 1% to 5% of the income distribution, after housing costs, 1979 to 2008-09, in 2008-09 prices*

£

| Year | Bottom 90% | Top 5% to 10% | Top 1% to 5% |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 (UK) | 318 | 827 | 1,173 |

*Notes:*

1. These statistics are based on households below average income.
2. The reference period for households below average income figures are single financial years.
3. Data is sourced from the Family Resources Survey, with earlier data sourced from the Family Expenditure Survey.
4. FES figures are for the United Kingdom, FRS figures are for Great Britain up to 2001-02, and for the United Kingdom from 2002-03. The reference period for FRS figures is single financial years. FES figures are two combined calendar years from 1990-91-1992-93 and two financial years combined for 1993-95.
5. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response. In particular results for the top 10% of reported incomes are particularly vulnerable to sampling error and income measurement issues.
6. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'households below average income' series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living, equivalised using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development equivalisation factors.
7. Median incomes have been provided as well as mean incomes because the income distribution is skewed with some outliers with high incomes.
8. Weekly incomes have been rounded to the nearest pound sterling.
9. Figures have been presented on a before housing cost and an after housing cost basis. For before housing costs, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for after housing costs they are.

*Source:*

Households Below Average Income, DWP

### Poverty: Children

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the funding of child poverty pilots after March 2011. [41897]

**Maria Miller:** The previous Government funded nine child poverty pilots to test a range of approaches to tackling child poverty. Funding for the pilots was agreed until March 2011. There are no plans to provide central funding beyond this, although pilot areas may decide to continue to fund pilot activities fully or partially themselves.

The pilots are being evaluated. In most cases early or interim evaluation reports are available on the DFE and DWP websites. Final evaluation reports will be published in late spring 2011. An interim synthesis report summarising the content of the suite of child poverty pilots and early learning will be published shortly.

Information from the pilots is being considered in the drafting of the national child poverty strategy and by local areas in producing their child poverty needs assessments and strategies.

### Remploy: Durham

**Helen Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the future of the Remploy factory in Spennymoor; and if he will make a statement. [47872]

**Maria Miller:** The coalition Government confirmed as part of the spending review that Remploy's operational budget for the five year modernisation plan from 20080-09 to 2012-13 remains protected at £555 million. An independent review of the support the Government provides to disabled people who want to work, including the support provided by Remploy, will be published in the summer.

Remploy have recently offered voluntary redundancies in their factory business. This is a decision made by Remploy management to help the continuing operation of the businesses within that budget and to help ensure all employees have meaningful work. Remploy will ensure the voluntary redundancy programme does not adversely impact on continuing operations of their businesses and that no factory will close.

### Social Fund

**Helen Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the monetary value was of loans and grants from the Social Fund on *(a)* white goods and *(b)* bedding in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10; and how many recipients there were in each such category. [47871]

**Steve Webb:** The information is not available as for budgeting loans applicants are not asked to record in detail what they require the loan for. Quality assured data for community care grants spending is not available. For crisis loans we are not able to separate out all white goods and could only provide spend on cookers and washing machines. Other white goods are not captured on the system for example refrigeration equipment and so we cannot report on these goods as any figures given would be incomplete. The available information is given in the table.

*Crisis loan gross expenditure on bedding in Great Britain*

|  | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 2.4 |
| 2009-10 | 3.0 |

*Note:*

The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, it does not include applications which were processed clerically and have not yet been entered on to the Social Fund Computer System by end of relevant finance year.

*Source:*

Department for Work and Pensions Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

## Social Security Benefits

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to his Department's impact assessment on the proposed benefit cap, how many people he expects to *(a)* have benefits capped and *(b)* lose benefits in each (i) region and (ii) local authority area under his proposals. [46400]

**Chris Grayling:** The information requested is not available as sample sizes are too small to yield reliable results for areas smaller than the overall impacts for Great Britain.

If the benefit cap were applied in full we estimate that around 50,000 households in Great Britain will have their benefits reduced by the policy. We are looking at ways of easing the transition for families and providing assistance in hard cases.

The benefit cap supports our plans to make work pay as when someone in a household enters work and begins to receive working tax credit they will be exempt from the new measure.

We are putting in place the Work Programme, the biggest single welfare-to-work programme this country has ever seen, which will give unemployed people unprecedented levels of personal support to get them into the workplace.

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to his Department's impact assessment on the proposed benefit cap, what proportion of those who are to lose benefit under his proposals he expects to take up work. [46402]

**Chris Grayling:** No assessment has been made of the likely number of people who will take up work as a result of the household cap on total benefit income.

We are putting in place the Work Programme, the biggest single welfare-to-work programme this country has ever seen, which will give unemployed people unprecedented levels of personal support to get them into the workplace.

The benefit cap supports our plans to make work pay as when someone in a household enters work and begins to receive working tax credit they will be exempt from the new measure.

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to his Department's impact assessment on welfare services and housing benefit, what safeguards he plans to establish to prevent the inappropriate disclosure of customer information. [46404]

**Steve Webb:** Every organisation that processes personal information is subject to the requirements of the Data Protection Act. Data controllers must ensure that any processing of personal data for which they are responsible complies with the Act. Failure to do so risks enforcement action, even prosecution, and compensation claims from individuals.

Any information supplied for the purpose of providing welfare services under provisions in the Welfare Reform Bill will be subject to the offence provision that is also set out in the Bill. This makes it a criminal offence for a person to disclose information unlawfully, and mirrors the provisions that already apply in respect of social security information supplied to local authorities for housing and council tax benefit purposes.

DWP has a range of measures in place to protect social security data that are currently supplied to local authorities for the administration of housing and council tax benefits. All authorities sign up to a Memorandum of Understanding, which governs the policy through which authorities access and use DWP customer data, and all information supplied electronically is sent securely via the Government Secure Network.

All individuals with access to information are required to meet HMG Recruitment policies and sign confidentiality agreements with DWP. To provide further assurance DWP conducts risk-based checks to verify that accesses to customer information are in line with guidance.

Where it is established customer information has been inappropriately disclosed individuals can face disciplinary action or prosecution. Proceedings may be taken against an authority or its officers if it can be shown that negligence contributed to inappropriate disclosure.

DWP maintains absolute discretion to withdraw access granted to an individual who has inappropriately disclosed customer information. This situation may apply to an authority as a whole if it is considered it has not complied with the conditions set out in the Memorandum of Understanding.

DWP plans to extend these practices to cover the proposed sharing of data in relation to welfare services and housing benefit.

## Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many customers whose benefit entitlement was revised as a result of the trial reassessments of customers receiving incapacity benefit and income support in north east Scotland appealed against that decision; and what the outcome was of those appeals. [37628]

**Maria Miller:** The Department published early findings from this trial on the 10 February. These provisional findings covered the number of customers disallowed employment and support allowance and showed that 1,347 decisions had been made. Of these, the awards of 399 individuals did not qualify for conversion to employment and support allowance (30%).

It is too early to provide final statistical information on appeals volumes and outcomes as not all customers have completed their reassessment journey and the number of customers who appeal will be subject to change as the trial continues to progress.

More detailed statistical information will be published later this year once the trial is complete.

## Squatting

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many buildings on his Department's estate were occupied by squatters in each year between 2006 and 2010; and on how many occasions his Department sought interim possession orders to remove squatters from such buildings in each of those years. [47660]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department for Work and Pensions has a twenty year private finance initiative contract with Telereal Trillium for the provision of fully serviced accommodation in return for a unitary charge. Under the terms of the contract accommodation is handed back to Telereal Trillium when it is vacated by the Department. The Department does not keep records of what happens to properties once they have been handed back.

There are no records of any properties in use by the Department having been occupied by squatters between 2006 and 2010.

### Universal Credit

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many families currently receiving child tax credit would be excluded from universal credit by the proposed capital rules; and whether their entitlement will be protected in the period of transition. [46504]

**Chris Grayling:** Transitional protection will ensure that current recipients of child tax credits will not be cash losers from the introduction of universal credit, provided their circumstances remain the same.

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish his Department's estimates of the combined effects of *(a)* the proposed universal credit and *(b)* other announced changes in welfare benefits on model benefit recipients. [46506]

**Chris Grayling:** I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the latest universal credit impact assessment which is available on the Department for Work and Pensions website. The impact assessment includes analysis of the budget constraints for model benefit recipients in 2014-15. These include the impact of the universal credit and other announced changes in welfare benefits.

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether self-employed persons will be eligible for universal credit payments. [46725]

**Chris Grayling:** Those in self-employment may be entitled to financial support from universal credit, like other employees, depending on their income and providing they meet the conditions of entitlement.

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost in 2011 prices of guaranteeing transitional protection to notional losers from the introduction of universal credit in *(a)* 2014-15 and *(b)* 2015-16. [47751]

**Chris Grayling:** The Government have made a commitment that there will be no cash losers as a result of the move to universal credit. At the point of change a comparison will be made between amount received in tax credits and/or benefits and the household entitlement under universal credit. If the universal credit entitlement is less, and no other circumstances have changed, a cash amount will be paid in order to make up the difference.

This money is included within the universal credit spending envelope. Estimates on a year-by-year basis during the transition period are not available.

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what definition of change of circumstances will apply to determine whether claimants have transitional protection for universal credit after 2014. [47752]

**Chris Grayling:** The Government have made public our intention to provide transitional protection to any claimants who might receive less under the new system compared to their current entitlement. We are in the process of finalising the details in respect of this protection and will provide further information as soon as possible.

### Universal Credit: Council Tax Benefits

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to integrate the payments of universal credit and council tax benefit in the next four years. [47017]

**Chris Grayling:** In developing its plans for a new system for localised council tax support delivered by local authorities, the Government have been clear that the changes should support the positive work incentives that will be introduced through the Government's plans on universal credit. Full consultation on the new system for localised support with council tax in relation to England will be undertaken in due course, led by the Department for Communities and Local Government. The Department for Communities and Local Government will also lead on discussing the devolved implications with the Scottish Government, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Northern Ireland Executive.

### Winter Fuel Payments: Berkshire

**Alok Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims for winter fuel payments were made by households in *(a)* Reading West constituency, *(b)* Reading and *(c)* Berkshire in each of the last 10 years. [46595]

**Steve Webb:** Most winter fuel payments are paid automatically without the need to claim. The information that is available is in the following tables.

*Number of households receiving a winter fuel payment in Reading West parliamentary constituency*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 11,615 |
| 2003-04 | 11,645 |
| 2004-05 | 11,845 |
| 2006-07 | 12,200 |
| 2007-08 | 12,500 |
| 2008-09 | 12,670 |
| 2009-10 | 13,150 |

*Number of households receiving a winter fuel payment by unitary authorities in Berkshire*

| | Bracknell Forest | West Berkshire | Reading | Slough | Windsor and Maidenhead | Wokingham |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 11,090 | 17,530 | 16,045 | 12,065 | 18,515 | 16,980 |
| 2003-04 | 11,170 | 17,825 | 15,965 | 12,030 | 18,680 | 17,220 |
| 2004-05 | 11,545 | 18,590 | 16,190 | 12,095 | 19,255 | 18,055 |
| 2006-07 | 12,200 | 19,680 | 16,300 | 12,100 | 19,790 | 19,110 |
| 2007-08 | 12,620 | 20,410 | 16,610 | 12,270 | 20,410 | 19,950 |
| 2008-09 | 13,010 | 21,040 | 16,790 | 12,350 | 20,840 | 20,500 |
| 2009-10 | 13,400 | 21,680 | 17,100 | 12,570 | 21,220 | 21,170 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest five up to 2004-05 and from 2006-07 onwards to the nearest 10.
2. Figures for 2009-10 are based on May 2010 parliamentary constituency boundaries.
3. Household figures for 2005-06 have been withdrawn pending a review of the figures. The revised figures will be placed in the Commons Library shortly.
4. Household figures are not available prior to 2002-03.
5. The latest figures for winter fuel payments are published at:
http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=wfp
*Source:*
IFD Information Centre, 100% sample

### Work Capability Assessment

**Fiona O'Donnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to ensure Atos Healthcare has in place champions with additional expertise in mental, cognitive and intellectual conditions, as recommended by the Harrington Review of the work capability assessment; and when he expects such champions to be in place. [47314]

**Chris Grayling:** We are committed to taking forward the review's recommendations so that we can make the system fairer and more effective. We are working to improve the awareness and capability of both Atos health care professionals regarding mental health issues, introducing mental, cognitive and intellectual 'champions' into assessment centres to improve the assessment of these functions.

Champions are already in place in the incapacity benefits reassessment trial areas of Burnley and Aberdeen. We are working with Atos Healthcare to ensure that champions will start to be in place more widely in time for the national roll-out of the incapacity benefits reassessment programme.

**Fiona O'Donnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether Atos Healthcare is subject to a financial penalty in the event that a claimant is found to have been incorrectly deemed fit for work following an appeal. [47547]

**Chris Grayling:** In the event that a customer is found to have been incorrectly deemed fit for work following an appeal, Atos Healthcare is not subject to a financial penalty. The decision of fitness for work is made by the DWP Decision Maker.

In addition to the examining Healthcare Professional's report, the Decision Maker will take account of all available evidence. This evidence will often include a report from the certifying General Practitioner, as well as the customer's own responses on the Benefit questionnaire.

When the customer makes an appeal, an independent tribunal panel decides whether the Decision Maker's determination is correct. The Appeal Tribunal will consider all the evidence afresh, as well as any additional evidence that has since been submitted by the customer, and which was not available originally to the Decision Maker. The examination report therefore will be only one of the factors before the Tribunal.

Consequently, the presumption cannot be made that, when a Tribunal overturns a decision, it was due to short-comings in the examination report used in the decision making process.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Squatting

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many buildings on her Department's estate were occupied by squatters in each year between 2006 and 2010; and on how many occasions her Department sought interim possession orders to remove squatters from such buildings in each of those years. [47663]

**Richard Benyon:** None.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Earthquakes: Japan

**Stephen Mosley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects the Chief Nuclear Inspector to complete his report on the implications of the recent situation in Japan and the lessons to be learned. [47674]

**Charles Hendry:** In the light of the events in Japan the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change has called on the Chief Nuclear Inspector, Dr. Mike Weightman for a thorough report on the implications of the situation in Japan and the lessons to be learned. This will be prepared in close co-operation internationally with other nuclear regulators, with an interim report in May and a final report within six months.

It is essential that we understand the full facts and their implications, both for existing nuclear reactors and any new programme, as safety is always our primary concern.

### EU Energy Policy

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* matters were discussed and *(b)* decisions were taken at the special meeting of EU member state energy ministers, nuclear safety regulators and operators and vendors of nuclear power plants convened by the European Energy Commissioner on 15 March 2011 in Brussels. [47868]

**Charles Hendry:** At the EU meeting in Brussels there was a general consensus that a measure to "stress test" European Union nuclear power stations would be sensible and prudent. Work still needs to be done in collaboration with member states to formulate the exact nature of this "stress test".

The UK supports a process to "stress test" its nuclear installations through establishing the lessons to be learned from the events in Japan, establishing any areas for improvement and ensuring the changes are implemented.

### Nuclear Power Stations: Emergencies

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the adequacy of plans for UK nuclear power plants to respond to a natural disaster. [47509]

**Charles Hendry:** The operators of nuclear power plants in the UK are required to put in place adequate arrangements and demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate of the Health and Safety Executive, the industry safety regulator, the safety of activities on their sites. This involves complying with the rigorous conditions of their nuclear site licence and other relevant safety regulation. That includes the legal requirement to have detailed emergency plans which would be put into effect for serious accidents.

In the light of the events in Japan the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change has called on the Chief Nuclear Inspector, Dr. Mike Weightman for a thorough report on the implications of the situation in Japan and the lessons to be learned. This will be prepared in close co-operation internationally with other nuclear regulators, with an interim report in May and a final report within six months.

It is essential that we understand the full facts and their implications, both for existing nuclear reactors and any new programme, as safety is always our primary concern.

**Graham Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has assessed the likelihood of the occurrence of *(a)* an 8.9 Richter scale earthquake and *(b)* a subsequent tsunami in proximity of any UK nuclear power installation; and if he will make a statement. [47542]

**Charles Hendry:** The Government takes the incident in Japan extremely seriously, A range of natural external hazards, including seismic activity are defined and accounted for in the safety case for all nuclear installations. However, there is no evidence to expect a similar scale earthquake and associated tsunami in the UK. The earthquake in Japan was 65,000 greater than the largest earthquake which has occurred in the UK.

In the light of the events in Japan my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has called on the Chief Nuclear Inspector, Dr. Mike Weightman for a thorough report on the implications of the situation in Japan and the lessons to be learned. This will be prepared in close cooperation internationally with other nuclear regulators, with an interim report in May and a final report within six months.

It is essential that we understand the full facts and their implications, both for existing nuclear reactors and any new programme, as safety is always our primary concern.

### Nuclear Power Stations: Safety

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has requested the chief nuclear safety inspector to conduct a review of the measures in place to mitigate a loss of coolant accident, in respect of *(a)* operating and *(b)* planned nuclear power plants in the UK; and what advice he has sought on the implications for the UK nuclear power programme of the nuclear accidents in Japan. [47869]

**Charles Hendry:** The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change has asked the Chief Nuclear Inspector, Dr Mike Weightman, to provide a report to the Government on the implications of the unprecedented events in Japan and the lessons to be learned for the UK nuclear industry.

He has asked for an interim report by mid May 2011 and a final report within six months. The reports will be shared widely and made public.

The detailed scope of Dr Weightman's report will be confirmed as information from Japan becomes clearer. The report will be conducted in close co-operation with the international nuclear community including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Japanese authorities and other regulators to carefully establish the lessons to be learned and will include existing nuclear installations in the UK and the proposed new reactor programme.

### Wind Power: Manufacturing Industries

**Dr Phillip Lee:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will consider the merits of proposals to *(a)* consolidate and *(b)* license potential port sites for support for wind farm construction to wind farm contractors for use as staging areas for the construction, installation and operation of wind farms. [47648]

**Charles Hendry:** The development of the offshore wind sector has significant potential for employment and economic growth at UK coastal locations, and the Department has committed up to £60 million to support offshore wind manufacturing infrastructure at port sites, to meet the needs of offshore wind manufacturers looking to locate new facilities in England.

However it is for manufacturers, developers and operators, not Government, to decide where the best locations for their activities are from a business perspective.

## TREASURY

### Bank Services: Fees and Charges

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to prevent excessive bank and financial transaction charges on unauthorised overdrafts. [47508]

**Mr Hoban:** The Government have committed in the coalition agreement to introduce stronger consumer protections including measures to end unfair bank and financial transaction charges. This commitment is being taken forward as part of the joint Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and HM Treasury Consumer Credit and Personal Insolvency Review. Following a call for evidence, the Government are now considering the available evidence and will come forwards with specific proposals in due course.

### Departmental Business Plans

**Stella Creasy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which Secretaries of State the Chief Secretary to the Treasury has met to discuss *(a)* implementation of the departmental business plans and *(b)* instances when actions stated in such plans as due for completion have not been completed by the due date since November 2010; and on what date each such meeting took place. [45357]

**Danny Alexander** *[holding answer 10 March 2011]*: I will meet Secretaries of State with the Minister for Government Policy, the right hon. Member for West Dorset (Mr Letwin), on a quarterly basis to discuss business plans. The Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and I meet regularly to discuss a wide range of issues, including business plans.

### Departmental Public Appointments

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which public bodies sponsored by his Department *(a)* have been and *(b)* are to be closed, merged or reorganised following his appointment; and how many (i) women and (ii) men who are public appointees at each body will no longer hold such an appointment in consequence. [47105]

**Mr Hoban:** The coalition Government are committed to increasing the accountability of public bodies, and this involves reducing their number and their cost to the taxpayer. The proposals for the majority of bodies across all Departments was announced and published on 14 October 2010. An updated list reflecting changes since October 2010 has been published on the Cabinet Office website this month. In addition, the Government are consulting on plans to put in place successor arrangements for the Financial Services Authority as part of a new approach to financial regulation. The consultation may be found on the Treasury website.

Summary information on public appointments is published annually by the Cabinet Office. This includes data on gender. Copies of the most recent report can be downloaded from:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/ndpb

### Devolution

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of *(a)* Scottish and *(b)* Welsh devolution in each year since 1999; and if he will make a statement. [47704]

**Danny Alexander:** There has been no cost to the UK Government. It is an accepted principle that the devolved administrations meet all the costs associated with devolution from within their existing budgets.

### Devolution: Scotland

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much funding of each type the Exchequer has allocated to Scotland in each year since 1999. [47680]

**Danny Alexander:** The Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) publishes allocated budgets to the devolved Administrations. The latest data from PESA 2010 from financial years 2004-05 to 2014-15 are set out in the following table. Earlier data for years prior to 2004-05 are published in earlier editions of PESA though not necessarily on a fully consistent basis.

*Outturn years*

*£ million*

| *Budget type* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* | *2011-12* | *2012-13* | *2013-14* | *2014-15* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Resource | 18,987 | 20,405 | 21,945 | 23,344 | 24,090 | 25,132 | 25,698 | 25,401 | 25,787 | 26,011 | 26,166 |
| Capital | 2,171 | 2,390 | 3,030 | 3,563 | 3,333 | 3,927 | 3,239 | 2,507 | 2,475 | 2,237 | 2,318 |

*Source data:*
Years 2004-05 to 2010-11, PESA 2010, tables 1.3 and 1.6
Years 2011-12 to 2014-15, 2010 Spending Review document, tables 1 and 2.

### Financial Services

**Mr Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what timetable he has set for the proposed legislation to establish arrangements for the body to succeed the Financial Services Authority. [48063]

**Mr Hoban:** The Government will publish a White Paper later in the spring that will include a draft Bill for parliamentary pre-legislative scrutiny (PLS). The Government expect that the Bill will be formally introduced to Parliament in mid-2011 and will receive Royal Assent in mid-2012, although the timetabling of PLS and legislation is a matter for Parliament.

**Mr Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to publish his response to his Department's consultation on financial regulation. [48065]

**Mr Hoban:** The Government published a summary of responses to their initial consultation on financial regulation in November 2010.

The Government will publish a White Paper later in the spring that will include their response to the further consultation ("A new approach to financial regulation: building a stronger system") launched in February.

### Financial Services: Pay

**Ed Balls:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to secure European agreement on implementing rules on transparency in the payment of bonuses over £1 million in the financial services sector. [39518]

**Mr Hoban** *[holding answer 10 February 2011]:* The Chancellor has called on counterparts in the European Union to urgently consider proposals to strengthen remuneration disclosure. While there is a range of views among the international community, there is support for an internationally consistent approach to remuneration disclosure.

Remuneration disclosure continues to be discussed as part of the Government's dialogue with other jurisdictions and we continue to argue for proposals to strengthen remuneration disclosure, including of executive pay in the financial services sector.

As a result of the Government's domestic negotiations, the four largest UK banks have committed that the total remuneration paid in 2010 will be lower than it was in 2009, and lower than it would have been otherwise. The Remuneration Committee Chair of each bank will write to the Financial Services Authority (FSA) to confirm that the commitment has been met. These banks have also committed to world-leading pay disclosure arrangements which, when taken together with the FSA's sector wide regime, make the UK's disclosure arrangements the toughest of any major financial centre.

### First-time Buyers: Government Assistance

**Jonathan Evans:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on assistance for first-time buyers; and if he will make a statement. [47566]

**Mr Hoban:** Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with the previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of such discussions.

### Betfair

**Fiona O'Donnell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an estimate of the cost to the Exchequer of the decision by Betfair to relocate offshore. [47553]

**Mr Hoban:** HM Revenue and Customs are not able to publish individual taxpayers' information due to taxpayer confidentiality.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr Winnick:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Tax Credit Office, Preston plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 14 February 2010 on a constituent, ref. 2011/02 001420. [47649]

**Mr Gauke:** HM Revenue and Customs replied to the hon. Member's letter of 14 February 2011 on 25 February 2011.

### NHS: Redundancy Pay

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many NHS foundation trusts reported at least one special severance payment form examination to his Department in the last year for which figures are available; [47402]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 961W, on NHS: redundancy pay, what were the 10 highest value special severance payments examined by his Department regarding NHS foundation trusts in the last year for which figures are available; [47405]

(3) how many special severance payments were examined by his Department regarding NHS foundation trusts in the last year for which figures are available. [47406]

**Danny Alexander** *[holding answer 17 March 2011]:* The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Squatting

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many buildings on his Department's estate were occupied by squatters in each year between 2006 and 2010; and on how many occasions his Department sought interim possession orders to remove squatters from such buildings in each of those years. [47662]

**Mr Hoban:** There have not been any cases of squatters occupying the buildings on the Department's estate between 2006 and 2010.

### Taxation: Financial Services

**Alun Cairns:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much tax was paid on profits by private equity firms in each of the last 10 years. [42246]

**Mr Hoban** *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* HM Revenue and Customs do not currently publish statistics of tax paid on profits by private equity firms. Historical financial sector corporation tax receipts, which will include private equity firms, are published regularly in Table 11.1 on the HMRC National Statistics website. The latest update is available here:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/table11_1.pdf

# Written Answers to Questions

*Monday 21 March 2011*

## WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

### Civil Partnerships

**Mr Hollobone:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities whether the Government's legislative proposals for the registration of civil partnerships in religious settings will include protection in law against suits brought against a minister of religion under human rights legislation for refusing to conduct a civil partnership ceremony in a place of worship. [45667]

**Lynne Featherstone** *[holding answer 10 March 2011]:* Civil partnerships are conducted by civil registrars designated by local authorities.

When commenced, section 202 of the Equality Act 2010 would insert a sub-section in the Civil Partnership Act 2004 which states:

> "For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this Act places an obligation on religious organisations to host civil partnership registrations if they do not wish to do so."

We have been very clear that we will not force religious organisations to host registrations on their premises and that ministers of religion could lawfully refuse to if they do not wish to do so.

### Equal Opportunities: Nationality

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what guidance *(a)* the Government Equalities Office and *(b)* the Equality and Human Rights Commission issues on the practice of businesses offering discounts to persons based on their nationality. [47854][1]

**Lynne Featherstone:** The Government Equalities Office has not issued any specific guidance relevant to the practice of business offering discounts to persons based on their nationality. The European Court of Human Rights has published non-statutory guidance on the Equality Act 2010 for service providers.

It would not normally be lawful for a business to offer discounts based on the protected characteristic of race, which includes nationality and ethnic or national origins.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Audio Equipment: Regulation

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which private sector organisations *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Ofcom consulted to determine the areas which contain critical levels of wireless microphone usage; and if he will make a statement. [48127]

**Mr Vaizey:** The matter raised is an operational one for the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, my officials spoke to Ofcom, who advised that Ofcom holds a regularly updated database which shows all licensed PMSE spectrum use since 2000. This enables them to identify which locations in the UK have significant historic peak PMSE spectrum demand. Furthermore, Ofcom consults regularly with its contracted PMSE spectrum licensing body, JFMG, to understand which future events are likely to require significant quantities of spectrum for PMSE.

### BBC: Radio

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on the proposed changes to the structure of local BBC radio stations; and if he will make a statement. [47295]

**Mr Vaizey:** We have received no formal representations on the proposed changes to the structure of local BBC radio stations. However, we understand the proposals to be part of a wider review of BBC activities and that no decisions have been made at this time.

### Communications Bill

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will bring forward his proposed Communications Bill in the next Parliamentary session. [47577]

**Mr Jeremy Hunt** *[holding answer 18 March 2011]:* We will publish a Green Paper by the end of 2011. The public consultation that follows will inform a draft Communications Bill to be produced by mid-2013. Our aim is to complete the legislative process by the end of this Parliament. The timetable is designed to ensure that there is sufficient time to have a full and open dialogue about the complex issues involved and reflects the importance of this sector to the UK.

### Departmental Public Appointments

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which public bodies sponsored by his Department *(a)* have been and *(b)* are to be closed, merged or reorganised following his appointment; and how many (i) women and (ii) men who are public appointees at each body will no longer hold such an appointment in consequence. [47109]

**John Penrose:** The coalition Government are committed to increasing the accountability of public bodies, and this involves reducing their number and their cost to the taxpayer. The proposals for the majority of bodies across all Departments was announced and published on 14 October 2010. An updated list reflecting changes since October 2010 has been published on the Cabinet Office website and can be found at the following link:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/public-bodies-reform-proposals-change

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[1] *[Official Report, 5 April 2011, Vol. 526, c. 13MC.]*

Summary information on public appointments is published annually by the Cabinet Office. This includes data on gender. Copies of the most recent report can be downloaded from:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/ndpb

and

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/ndpb

### National Lottery: Young People

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of people aged 16 and 17 who played National Lottery games and *(b)* the amount they spent in the 12 months for which figures are available. [47317]

**John Penrose:** The National Lottery Commission has advised that it does not hold this information. The age of national lottery players and their expenditure is not recorded at the point of purchase.

The British Gambling Prevalence Survey 2010 contains data on the percentage of 16 to 24-year-olds who have participated in national lottery draws and scratchcards in the past year. It shows that 42% have played national lottery draw games in the past year, and 34% have purchased scratchcards:

*Page 38*

http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/PDF/British%20Gambling%20Prevalence%20Survey%202010.pdf

### Ofcom: Finance

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer on 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1087W, on Ofcom: finance, with reference to note 30 to the accounts on page 103 of the Ofcom Annual Report for 2009-10, for what reasons Ofcom owes £29.3 million to central Government bodies; what plans there are to recover those funds; and for what reasons such liabilities arose. [47658]

**Mr Vaizey** *[holding answer 18 March 2011]:* As I said in my answer to the hon. Member's previous question about this on 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1087W, this is grant in aid paid in line with agreed procedures with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and is appropriately classified within Ofcom's statutory accounts under International Financial Reporting Standards conventions.

In addition, BIS has provided a loan of £2,036,000 to Ofcom to enable them to undertake work to meet their obligations under the Digital Economy Act 2010. Those costs will fall to industry, but will not be recouped until the code of practice comes into force, at which time Ofcom will repay the loan to BIS.

Ofcom's 2009-10 Annual Report lists £29.238 million grant in aid paid by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) in respect of the following Ofcom activities for the months of April, May, June and July 2010:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| Spectrum Management | 22.5 |
| Spectrum Awards | 1.8 |
| Spectrum Clearance | 41 |
| Ex-Post Competition | 0.7 |
| Other—online copyright infringement, local media, digital participation and postal integration | 0.1 |

### Rugby

**Mary Macleod:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will meet representatives of the Rugby Football Union, Network Rail and the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames to consider changes to Twickenham railway station ahead of the 2015 Rugby World Cup. [47669]

**Hugh Robertson:** I regularly meet representatives of the Rugby Football Union and have discussed the matter with them. I am content to meet representatives of Network Rail, Richmond council and the Rugby Football Union. However, changes to Twickenham rail station are a matter for the Department for Transport.

### Sky News

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will put in place arrangements for guarantees in respect of the independent ownership of Sky News beyond the current proposed 10 year period. [47624]

**Mr Jeremy Hunt:** I am currently consulting on the undertakings offered by News Corporation, which includes the 10-year arrangements for Sky News, and will consider this issue in the light of the responses.

### Video Games: Age

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what research his Department has carried out on levels of use of 18-rated computer games among children. [47232]

**Mr Vaizey:** My Department has carried out no research into the use of 18 rated computer games among children. However, 18+ rated games make up only 5% of all games made and account for between 6% and 8% of all games sold in the UK. It is an offence punishable by up to six months in prison to supply any British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) rated game to someone who does not meet the age requirement. All 18 rated games are currently classified by the BBFC.

### Video Games: Violence

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his policy is on measures to restrict the *(a)* promotion of and *(b)* condoning of violence and misogyny in (i) computer games and (ii) marketing of computer games. [47234]

**Mr Vaizey:** Games are classified according to guidelines set out by either the British Board of Film Classification or the Pan European Games Information (PEGI) system. These take into account the content, and games that contain violence or misogyny would be classified accordingly. We are working with the video game industry to ensure it does all it can to increase parents' understanding of age ratings and of improved parental controls on equipment.

The advertising of computer games is controlled through the UK Advertising Codes, which are robustly administered by the independent Advertising Standards Authority (ASA). The codes require that all video games advertising should be socially responsible and that ads for games carrying a PEGI rating of 15+ are not targeted at audiences below the age of 16. Should the ASA find that an advertiser has breached the advertising codes, they will not hesitate to take action.

### White Space Devices

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what assessment he has made of the potential effects of white space devices on the programme making and special events sector; and if he will make a statement; [48128]

(2) whether he has made an assessment of the provisional parameters set by *(a)* Ofcom and *(b)* the programme making and special events spectrum band manager to prevent spectrum interference from white space devices; and if he will make a statement. [48129]

**Mr Vaizey:** The matter raised is an operational one for the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, my officials spoke to Ofcom, who said that Ofcom has made clear it will only authorise licence-exempt use of spectrum by white-space devices if they protect licensed users, including programme-making and special events, against harmful interference.

**John Thurso:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what advice his Department has received from Ofcom on the testing of white space devices before they are granted licence-exempt access to the spectrum; and if he will make a statement; [48130]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with representatives of Ofcom on the testing of the recommended operational parameters for unlicensed white space devices set out in Ofcom's Implementing Geolocation consultation; and if he will make a statement. [48133]

**Mr Vaizey:** The matter raised is an operational one for the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, my officials spoke to Ofcom, who said that Ofcom is still considering responses to its consultation and will refine its plans for future work in the coming months.

## HEALTH

### Caffeine: Young People

**Christopher Pincher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has any plans to introduce an age limit for the purchase of energy drinks containing high levels of caffeine. [47554]

**Anne Milton:** The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has no plans to recommend the introduction of an age limit for the purchase of energy drinks containing high levels of caffeine. FSA is not aware of any evidence of a direct, long term link between caffeine consumption and altered behaviour to support legislation in this area.

FSA will continue to monitor any new emerging scientific evidence in this area.

In the United Kingdom many high caffeine drink manufacturers already voluntarily include advice about their unsuitability for children and pregnant women because of their high caffeine content. Additionally, new European legislation under negotiation on food labelling may require such statements as mandatory.

### Contraceptives

**Jim Dobbin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health in which areas his Department is undertaking pilot studies on the distribution through pharmacies of the morning after pill to girls aged 13 and over. [47974]

**Anne Milton:** The Department is not undertaking any pilot studies on the distribution through pharmacies of emergency hormonal contraception (EHC), also known as the morning after pill to girls aged 13 and over.

Health professionals such as pharmacists can legally provide EHC to under-16s, under local national health service arrangements, if they are satisfied that the young person is competent to understand fully the implications of any treatment and after encouraging them to talk to a parent. The decision to develop arrangements for pharmacists to supply emergency contraception is taken by the local NHS.

### RDAs: Assets

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether receipts from the sale of assets owned by regional development agencies are reflected in the spending plans of his Department for *(a)* 2012-13 and *(b)* 2013-14. [47413]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department has no funding link to the regional development agencies and hence cannot use receipts from the sales of any of their assets in its spending plans.

### Departmental Procurement

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contracts with private sector organisations his Department has entered into in each month since May 2010; and what the *(a)* monetary value of the contract, *(b)* contracted company, *(c)* scope of the contract, *(d)* date of the contract, *(e)* length of the contract and *(f)* name of the previous contract holder is in each case. [44427]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department's business management system contracts database comprises centrally held information on contracts, and this information has been placed in the Library. Until 7 March 2011, however, procurement in the Department was primarily devolved to individual directorates and as such, a comprehensive record of all contracts entered into by the Department for the dates requested is not held centrally.

### Departmental Public Bodies

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 March 2011, *Official Report,* columns 9-10W, on the public bodies reform programme, what estimate he has made of the savings to his Department net of costs incurred in the assumption of additional departmental responsibilities to accrue from *(a)* the abolition of 30 public bodies within his Department's area of responsibility and *(b)* the change in function of one such body. [48140]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, (Mr Maude) issued a written ministerial statement on 16 March 2011, *Official Report,* columns 9-10WS, updating Parliament on progress with the public bodies reform. That statement announced that Departments' estimate that cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

The 40 health bodies listed in the Public Bodies Reform—Proposals for Change document are a mixture of advisory non-departmental public bodies (31, of which, 23 will be abolished or be reconstituted as a Department of Health or Public Health Service expert committee) and executive non-departmental public bodies (nine, of which, seven are to be abolished).

In terms of the Department's advisory non-departmental public bodies, the current costs are small and the opportunities for savings are corresponding in size.

For the group of executive non-departmental public bodies, savings will accrue not just from the seven bodies that are leaving the sector, but also through efficiency savings from those remaining. An analysis of all nine executive organisations listed in the Cabinet Office document (Alcohol Education and Research Council, Appointments Commission, Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence, General Social Care Council, Health Protection Agency, Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA), Human Tissue Authority (HTA), Care Quality Commission and Monitor—for HFEA and HTA the plan is for them to leave the sector at the end of the parliamentary session) indicates that £67 million could be saved in grant in aid in 2011-12.

### Epilepsy: Drugs

**Jacob Rees-Mogg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) on the availability of stiripentol; whether he has received the draft guidance from (NICE) on the availability of stiripentol for the treatment of epilepsy; if he will direct (NICE) to develop separate guidelines on the availability of stiripentol; and if he will make a statement. [48014]

**Paul Burstow:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently reviewing its clinical guideline on epilepsy in children and adults and issued a draft for consultation in January 2011. The draft guideline includes a recommendation on the use of stiripentol for the treatment of Dravet syndrome in children and young people in whom first-line treatment has proved ineffective or has not been tolerated.

We have had no discussions with NICE on stiripentol, and have no plans to ask NICE to develop specific guidance on this drug. There are no national restrictions on the availability of stiripentol on the national health service within its licensed indication and advice to clinicians on its use is included in the British National Formulary for Children which is made available free of charge to NHS prescribes.

### Flu: Vaccination

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions he had with the Scottish Government in relation to the availability of flu vaccine in 2010-11; and what discussions he has had with the Scottish Government on the availability of the vaccine in 2011-12; [47571]

(2) what assessment he made of the potential to obtain supplies of influenza vaccine from the Scottish Government in 2010-11. [47593]

**Anne Milton:** Departmental officials approached Government officials in Scotland about whether they had any surplus vaccine for use in England. Officials in Scotland said that they may be able to provide some vaccine once they have met local needs but this would only be a nominal amount and wouldn't be available straight away.

Officials have also had an initial exchange of views on planning for the seasonal flu vaccination programme for 2011-12.

### Registrars: Certificate of Completion of Training

**Dan Byles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many specialty registrars *(a)* failed to achieve a Certificate of Completion of Training and *(b)* left the medical profession as a result in each of the last three years. [47672]

**Anne Milton:** This information is not held by the Department.

**Dan Byles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practice registrars *(a)* failed to achieve a Certificate of Completion of Training and *(b)* left the medical profession as a result in each of the last three years. [47673]

**Anne Milton:** This information is not held by the Department

### Health Services: West Midlands

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps his Department has taken to improve the provision of *(a)* cancer services and *(b)* mental health services in the West Midlands. [47287]

**Paul Burstow:** 'Improving Outcomes—A Strategy for Cancer', published on 12 January 2011, sets out a range of measures to improve the quality and efficiency of cancer services in England. Backed by more than £750 million over the next four years, the strategy sets out the Department's plans to improve earlier diagnosis, access to screening and treatment and improve patients' experience of care, putting patients and the public at the heart of cancer services.

The strategy sets out actions to tackle preventable cancer incidence, improve the quality and efficiency of cancer services; improve patients' experience of care; improve quality of life for cancer survivors; and deliver outcomes that are comparable with the best in Europe.

The impact assessment published alongside the strategy shows how we can save an additional 5,000 lives every year by 2014-15 through early diagnosis and improved access to screening and radiotherapy.

To support the national health service to achieve earlier diagnosis of cancer alongside efficiency savings, the strategy is backed by over £450 million investment over the spending review period. The earlier diagnosis money will:

give general practitioners (GPs) increased access to key diagnostic tests;

allow for the increased testing and treatment costs in secondary care associated with more people being diagnosed;

support campaigns aimed at raising awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer and getting symptomatic patients to present earlier; and

support GPs to diagnose cancer earlier, including support on when to commission and how to interpret diagnostic tests.

This funding is part of over £750 million additional funding for cancer over the spending review period to support delivery of 'Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer'. This includes funding for screening (flexible sigmoidoscopy) and radiotherapy (proton beam therapy) announced earlier in the autumn.

The Department published the national 'No Health Without Mental Health' strategy on 2 February 2011. It has the twin aims of promoting and sustaining good mental health and well-being in the wider population, and improving the quality of existing services for people across the full range of mental health problems. It looks at prevalence of problems and effective approaches at different stages in life, stressing the importance of prevention and early intervention.

Although a national strategy, it illustrates how local health organisations could make real improvements in quality of life for people with mental health problems.

The Department's work with partners, including the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, has made it clear that the context for this strategy is one of great financial pressure; so it has focused on priority areas of improvement while leaving plans and actions to local decision making. So this strategy should inform local planning, but not constrain it.

The approach to quality and outcomes is about shifting responsibility to the local level; there are no national performance management and no targets. Our focus will be on ensuring local areas have access to information that supports their individual approaches and enables individuals, neighbourhoods and communities to make appropriate change happen in a reformed system. This is not about central Government enacting change from the centre.

The Government expect clinicians in all areas to follow the guidance in both documents.

## NHS: Disciplinary Proceedings

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many clinical staff in *(a)* NHS foundation trusts and *(b)* each such trust were suspended on the most recent date for which figures are available. [47906]

**Mr Simon Burns:** This information is not held by Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts) or the Department.

The National Clinical Assessment Service collects data relating to the suspension of doctors and dentists. This does not specifically identify exclusions from foundation trusts.

## NHS: Manpower

**Simon Hart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* consultants and *(b)* other medical staff the NHS employed in each year since 2008. [47813]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The following table gives the number of consultants and other medical staff employed by the national health service in 2008 and 2009. Details of staff employed in 2010 will be available after publication of the annual NHS Workforce Census on the 22 March 2011.

*Hospital and community health services: medical and dental staff as at 30 September each year*

*numbers (headcount)*

| | *2008* | *2009* |
|---|---|---|
| All medical and dental staff | 98,703 | 102,961 |
| Consultants | 34,910 | 36,950 |
| Other staff | 63,793 | 66,011 |

*Note: Data quality*

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where changes impact on figures already published this is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

*Source:*

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

## Nurses: Sick Leave

**Simon Hart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of *(a)* nurses and *(b)* doctors in the NHS were on (i) sick leave for a period of seven days or more and (ii) maternity or paternity leave in the latest period for which figures are available. [47811]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The NHS Information Centre currently only provides sickness absence rates for the English national health service.

Work is under way to develop additional statistics to cover other causes of absence and to provide figures in terms of days lost. However, currently no figures are published in the format requested.

The published sickness absence statistics for the English NHS are available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/workforce/sickness-absence

## Potassium Iodide

**Steve Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what stocks of potassium iodide tablets his Department holds for the purposes of protection of the public in the event of a nuclear accident. [47379]

**Anne Milton:** The United Kingdom Government have established an extensive stockpile of medical countermeasures to be used to protect and treat the public in the event of a wide range of possible incidents or attacks—one of which might be a nuclear incident. Potassium iodate tablets are included in the stockpile, but for obvious reasons of security, it would be inappropriate to specify further what particular countermeasures are held, the quantity in which they are held and where they are located.

The UK Government constantly review their requirements in line with the assessed threat of a particular incident occurring.

## Queen's Hospital, Romford

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent reports he has received on the adequacy of staffing at Queen's Hospital, Romford; and if he will make a statement. [47443]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and adult social care services in England. Providers of regulated activities must be registered with CQC, and comply with registration requirements regulations that set out essential levels of safety and quality. CQC assesses how trusts comply with these legal requirements and it has the power to impose a range of sanctions where breaches are found. CQC issued warning notices to Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust on 3 March 2011 highlighting concerns about staffing in the maternity unit at Queen's hospital.

Previously, on 21 December 2010, the CQC published compliance reports on both King George hospital and Queen's hospital. There was a compliance action relating to staffing.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential effect on Queen's Hospital, Romford of the closure of the maternity ward at King George Hospital; what provision has been made to receive maternity patients at Queen's Hospital; and if he will make a statement. [47444]

**Mr Simon Burns:** It is for the local national health service to assess and provide adequate services to meet the needs of its local population.

## Screening: Babies

**Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration was given to including lungs in the NHS newborn and infant physical screening programme. [47540]

**Anne Milton:** All parents of newborn babies are offered the opportunity to have their child examined shortly after birth and between six and eight weeks of age. The screening component includes an examination of the baby's eyes, heart, hips and testes in boys. This is part of a general physical examination, which would include an examination of the lungs. The lungs were not considered for specific inclusion in the screening component because of the variable symptoms and the lack of evidence to meet the criteria of a safe and effective screening programme.

## Surgery

**Simon Hart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many surgical procedures were cancelled or postponed on the day that they were scheduled to take place in the latest period for which figures are available. [47818]

**Mr Simon Burns:** 16,785 elective operations were cancelled on or after the day of admission for non-clinical reasons between October and December 2010. As a percentage of total elective activity, cancelled operations remain low, at 1%.

These data are published on a quarterly basis on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/Performancedataandstatistics/Cancelledoperations/index.htm

## Surgery: Admissions

**Simon Hart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of same day admissions for surgical treatment were treated on the day of admission in the latest period for which figures are available. [47810]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The proportion of same day admissions for surgical treatment treated on the day of admission, in 2009-10, are shown in the following table:

| | *All elective surgeries* | *Elective surgeries with main operation on the day of admission* | *Percentage treated on same day* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 6,691,947 | 6,267,724 | 93.7 |

*Notes:*

1. These figures represent a count of episodes and not the number of patients, as a patient may have been admitted on more than one occasion.
2. Activity in English NHS hospitals and English national health service commissioned activity in the independent sector.
3. These data include admissions for all elective surgery, including day case admissions.

*Source:*

Hospital Episode Statistics, The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

## Tobacco: Sales

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he had with the Reducing Regulation Committee prior to announcing his decision to implement the tobacco display ban; and what steps he has taken to ensure the arrangements for implementing the ban comply with the Government's one-in, one-out policy on regulation. [47264]

**Anne Milton:** The Government's decision to implement the legislation ending the display of tobacco products in shops in England was reached after due consideration by the appropriate Government Ministers. The arrangements for implementing the legislation will comply with the Government's one-in, one-out policy on regulation.

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which authorities will be responsible for *(a)* supporting and *(b)* enforcing compliance by small businesses with the proposed tobacco display ban. [47265]

**Anne Milton:** Local authority trading standards officers will be responsible for the monitoring and enforcement of the legislation ending the display of tobacco products in shops in England.

Departmental officials will work with the Local Government Group and with representatives of retailers to develop guidance for retailers and local trading standards officers. The guidance will aim to build compliance by making sure all parties have clear information about the regulations.

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to make the proxy purchasing of tobacco products for minors a criminal offence. [47266]

**Anne Milton:** We have no proposals to bring this forward at present. The Department has however commissioned a review of the evidence about the sources of tobacco for children, which will report back later this year. In addition, the Department has in recent months been working closely with local government regulation and local council trading standards officers who have been collecting information on the level of proxy purchase of tobacco products in a number of local authority areas. Future policy options will be considered in the light of the evidence gained from these sources and in line with the Tobacco Control Plan for England, published on 9 March 2011.

A copy of the plan has already been placed in the Library.

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to lay before the House regulations for the implementation of the proposed tobacco display ban. [47268]

**Anne Milton:** We will bring forward amending regulations as soon as practicable, after they have been considered under the European technical standards directive. The regulations need to be submitted in draft to the European Commission, followed by a three-month "standstill" period. Should any party lodge a detailed opinion on the regulations, the "standstill" period will be extended by a further three months. Regulations cannot be made and laid in Parliament during this period.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what legal advice she has received on the introduction of *(a)* a voluntary and *(b)* a mandatory minimum price for alcohol. [46924]

**James Brokenshire:** The Secretary of State for the Home Department has received legal advice on alternative forms of alcohol pricing. This included advice about the risk of minimum unit pricing being found to be unlawful under EU Law and advice on a prohibition on below cost sales including if the floor price is set at duty plus VAT. However, the content of legal advice is subject to legal professional privilege and it is not appropriate to set it out at this stage other than in terms of the areas to which it relates.

### Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fixed penalty notices have been issued by *(a)* police forces and *(b)* local authorities for offences of (i) fly-tipping, (ii) graffiti, (iii) dog fouling, (iv) dropping of litter and (v) parking in each year since 2006. [46938]

**James Brokenshire:** Offences of dog fouling, the dropping of litter and parking offences are summary offences and do not feature in the police recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office. The Home Office does collect penalty notice for disorder (PND) data on recorded offences of criminal damage, which includes graffiti-related offences, although these are part of an aggregate count and therefore cannot be separately identified.

Within the Home Office classification of "Public Health offences", there are two sub-classifications which would cover the offence of fly-tipping although the actual term 'fly-tipping' is not specified. These sub-classifications cannot be separately identified from the police recorded crime statistics and in practice, it is more likely that offences of fly-tipping would be reported to and recorded by the relevant local authority.

Information on fixed penalties for motoring offences (FPNs) reported to the Home Office shows that there were 496,000 FPNs issued for 'obstruction, waiting and parking offences' in 2006, 447,000 in 2007 and 332,000 in 2008. Data for 2009 are scheduled to be published in April 2011.

In addition to the FPNs for motoring offences as collected by the Home Office, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) collects data on fixed penalty notices for disorder offences such as 'depositing and leaving litter', which can be accessed via the following link to the MoJ website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/chapter2-penalty-notices-for-disorder.xls

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) publishes data on fixed penalty notices for environmental offences. The most recent published information can be found on the DEFRA website which can be viewed at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/local/legislation/fpn/

### Criminal Records

**Anas Sarwar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to increase sharing of criminal records files with other EU member states. [48089]

**Lynne Featherstone:** Criminal record exchange within the European Union takes place within the framework of Council Decision 2005/876/JHA on the exchange of information extracted from the criminal record. Between 2007-08 and 2009-10 the amount of criminal convictions exchanged has increased:

Notifications received of UK nationals convicted in the EU increased from 3,120 to 6,298.

The number of notifications from the UK to other member states about the convictions of one of their nationals here has increased from 12,736 in 2007-08 (when only the first conviction of an EU national was sent) to 33,583 in 2009-10 (when all convictions were sent).

The number of requests received for the criminal record of UK citizens subject to criminal proceedings in other member states has increased from 190 to 341 in the same time period.

The number of requests made by the UK police and law enforcement agencies in relation to EU nationals subject to criminal proceedings here increased from 2,372 to 6,513.

As a result we now know a significant amount about the offending of UK nationals abroad and the previous offending history of EU nationals being prosecuted here. A new Framework Decision (2009/315/JHA) will make exchange mandatory from April 2012 and so we expect to see further increases in exchange.

The UK Central Authority for the Exchange of Criminal Records is leading a project to look at how the exchange of fingerprints can confirm the identity of individuals being prosecuted in the UK so that the correct previous convictions can be obtained from the country of nationality. Significant results have already been obtained through finding out the true identity of individuals being prosecuted here.

The UK Central Authority for the Exchange of Criminal Records has also begun to exchange criminal convictions electronically with other member states through the Network of Judicial Registers Project. Electronic exchange is quicker and cheaper than existing methods and should ensure that there is a continued increase in the number of criminal record files exchanged with other EU countries.

### Departmental Public Appointments

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which public bodies sponsored by her Department *(a)* have been and *(b)* are to be closed, merged or reorganised following her appointment; and how many (i) women and (ii) men who are public appointees at each body will no longer hold such an appointment in consequence. [47113]

**Damian Green:** The coalition Government are committed to increasing the accountability of public bodies, and this involves reducing their number and their cost to the taxpayer. The proposals for the majority of bodies across all Departments, including the Home Office, were announced and published on 14 October 2010. An updated list reflecting changes since October 2010 was published on the Cabinet Office website on 16 March 2011.

Summary information on public appointments is published annually by the Cabinet Office. This includes data on gender. Copies of the most recent report can be downloaded from:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/ndpb

### Departmental Rail Travel

**Mr Godsiff:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of civil servants in her Department are entitled to travel first class by rail within the UK. [47067]

**Damian Green:** Staff at senior executive officer (SEO) grade and above are entitled, as part of their terms and conditions of employment, to travel first class for business. The need to travel and ticket cost must be given due consideration.

In spring 2010 the Permanent Secretary issued austerity instructions to senior managers to reduce all travel by using alternatives such as video and/or telephone conferencing and to avoid first class travel as far as possible. The Department has significantly reduced first class travel by removing this option completely from the online travel booking service.

In principle, we have 4,015 staff (14.5% of total staff employed), across the Home Office and its agencies (UK Border Agency, Identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau ) with a contractual entitlement to travel first class; however, with booking accessibility severely restricted, first class travel is significantly reduced. For example, first class rail ticket costs accounted for less than 0.7% of total rail costs in January 2011 compared to 37.8% of total rail cost in January 2010.

Policy on all business travel is currently under review.

### Family Returns

**Chris Heaton-Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether travel documentation has been obtained for all the families who have participated in the family return conferences to date, including the pilots. [47788]

**Damian Green:** Families will be invited to a family returns conference when they have exhausted all legal avenues open to them and where they either hold a valid travel document or where any documentation barriers can be resolved in parallel with the returns process.

The UK Border Agency will not need to obtain travel documentation for all families in the returns process. This could be because all family members are already in possession of genuine travel documents or where a family has submitted further submissions or legal applications which are being considered.

Information is not centrally held on whether travel documentation has been obtained for all the families who have participated in family returns conferences. This information could be supplied by examining each individual case record only at disproportionate cost.

### Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

**Andrew Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria are used for awarding highly-trusted status to language schools; and what guidance her Department has provided to such schools on *(a)* highly-trusted status and *(b)* liaison with the UK Border Agency. [47300]

**Damian Green:** Full guidance on the criteria for awarding highly trusted sponsor (HTS) status to language schools is available on the UK Border Agency website.

In summary sponsors applying to be a highly trusted sponsor need to have held an A rated sponsor licence for at least six consecutive months prior to the date of application. They must also be able to demonstrate a good record of compliance with sponsor duties. These duties are outlined in the published guidance.

### Foreign Nationals

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what schemes her Department operates to assist foreign nationals who wish to cease to be resident in the UK to leave voluntarily. [47439]

**Damian Green:** Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) programmes are available to assist those in the UK asylum system and those who are in the UK illegally who wish to return voluntarily and permanently to their country of origin (or, where permanently admissible, to a third country). There are currently three general AVR programmes which are co-funded with the European Return Fund:

Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP) is for those who have sought asylum and those with certain forms of related temporary status in the UK. Returnees receive support in acquiring travel documentation, flight to country of origin and onward domestic transport, airport assistance at departure and arrival airports and up to £1,500 worth of reintegration assistance per person including a £500 relocation grant on departure for immediate resettlement needs, additional luggage allowance and, once home, a range of reintegration options. The majority of returnees use their reintegration assistance in income generation activities.

Assisted Voluntary Return for Families and Children (AVRFC) is for families comprising of a maximum of two adult parents or legal guardians and at least one child (under 18) and from unaccompanied children (under 18) who have either sought asylum or who are in the UK illegally and wish to return home. Returnees receive support in acquiring travel documentation, flight to country of origin and onward domestic transport, airport assistance at departure and arrival airports and up to £2,000 worth of reintegration assistance per person, including a £500 relocation grant on departure for immediate resettlement needs, additional luggage allowance and, once home, a range of reintegration options. The scheme offers flexibility of reintegration for the whole family and increased emphasis is placed on the use of reintegration assistance for educational needs as well as income generation.

Assisted Voluntary Return for Irregular Migrants (AVRIM) is for those migrants who have not sought asylum, but who are in the UK illegally and wish to return home. Returnees receive support in acquiring travel documentation, flight to country of origin and onward domestic transport, and airport assistance at departure and arrival airports. There is generally no reintegration assistance for AVRIM applicants; however, there is discretionary reintegration assistance of up to £1,000, considered on a case by case basis, available for vulnerable applicants. In addition to the general AVR programmes, the Facilitated Return Scheme is designed to help non-EEA foreign national prisoners return and reintegrate back into their home country. The main aim of the scheme is to promote and assist the process of early removals by encouraging full compliance and cooperation of foreign national prisoners wishing to return voluntarily.

Applications for the scheme are accepted from non-EEA nationals who have been convicted and are serving or have served a custodial sentence in a UK prison. Those who apply for and are accepted for the Facilitated Return Scheme will receive a cash payment of between £750 and £1,500 to help them build a new life on return to their home country.

### Foreign Workers: EU Nationals

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many migrant workers entered the UK from the EU Accession countries in each year since 2004. [47258]

**Damian Green:** Nationals of countries that acceded to the EU in 2004 and 2007 are no longer subject to immigration control, so their entry to the UK is not recorded.

The following tables provide the number of nationals from the EU Accession countries who applied for permission to work under the restrictions imposed on the access of Accession state nationals to the labour market.

*Nationals of Czech republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia (A8 nationals)*

| | *Total* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 144,068 |
| 2005 | 276,491 |
| 2006 | 341,020 |
| 2007 | 359,498 |
| 2008 | 315,452 |
| 2009 | 239,383 |
| 2010 | 261,588 |
| 2011 | 40,632 |
| Total | 1,978,132 |

*Bulgaria and Romania (A2 nationals)*

| | *Total* |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 11,482 |
| 2008 | 8,624 |
| 2009 | 8,008 |
| 2010 | 9,074 |
| 2011 | 1,810 |
| Total | 38,998 |

These figures are based on management information and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics. They are provisional and may be subject to change.

### Human Trafficking

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to publish the scoping study on human trafficking for forced labour. [47128]

**Damian Green:** We are investigating the feasibility of publishing an executive summary of the scoping study on human trafficking for forced labour.

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to publish the scoping study on human trafficking for domestic servitude. [47129]

**Damian Green:** We are investigating the feasibility of publishing an executive summary of the scoping study on human trafficking for domestic servitude.

## Illegal Immigrants

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many notifications the UK Border Agency received relating to individuals detained by police who were found to be in the UK illegally in the last 12 months for which figures are available; how many such notifications were acted upon; and how many such notifications resulted in the UK Border Agency taking into custody the individual in question for deportation or other enforcement action. [47422]

**Damian Green:** Where necessary, UK Border Agency officers will attend police stations with a view to establishing the identity and circumstances of the individual and serving them with the appropriate paperwork, such as a form notifying them that they have entered the UK unlawfully. Subsequent actions vary depending on the nature of the case, but can include the individual being transported to and detained in an immigration removal centre pending their removal, or being transported to the asylum screening unit if they advise that they wish to make an asylum application (this also may result in their detention as part of the asylum determination process).

For the period April 2010 to February 2011, the UK Border Agency received a total of 22,522 inquiries from the police about suspected immigration offenders. All inquiries received were considered for appropriate action but many were cleared by checking UK Border Agency records. 7,239 of these inquiries received from the police resulted in a visit by an immigration officer. The outcome from these visits was that in 3,497 instances at least one individual was arrested for an immigration offence.

It is not possible to provide the number of individuals who were taken into custody or to provide the number who were subsequently removed from the United Kingdom as this information is not recorded centrally. To establish these figures would require a manual examination of individual case records at a disproportionate cost.

The figures provided are sourced from management information tools and are not quality assured under National Statistics protocols. Figures provided do not constitute part of National Statistics and should be treated as provisional.

## Immigration

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on immigration to the UK. [47441]

**Damian Green:** Officials in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are routinely consulted on immigration policy proposals and changes both in London and overseas. Discussions between the Secretary of State for the Home Department, the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the right hon. Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), take place regularly, as and when appropriate.

## Immigration Control

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the Government's policy on *(a)* immigration and *(b)* border control; and if she will make a statement. [47445]

**Damian Green:** The Government are committed to reducing net migration and eliminating abuse of the immigration system, both in country and at the border. From July to September 2010 we consulted on how a limit on non-EU economic migration should work, while recognising the need to attract the brightest and the best migrants to the UK. Further details of representations received for the limits consultation can be found on the UK Border Agency website. We announced our response to this consultation in November 2010. In addition we held a public consultation on the student visa system, the results of which will be published in due course. Representations from a wide variety of organisations, other Government Departments and individuals have been received in response to both consultations.

## Liberal Democrat Spring Conference

**Mr Blunkett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse was of the provision of policing and security for the 2011 Liberal Democrat Spring Conference. [47374]

**Nick Herbert** *[holding answer 18 March 2011]:* The Home Office does not hold information on the costs of the security and policing operation for the 2011 Liberal Democrat spring conference.

Special grant funding is available to help meet costs where necessary additional expenditure incurred would otherwise create a serious threat to a police authority's financial stability and their capacity to deliver normal policing. We have not received an application from South Yorkshire police.

## Police: Pensions

**Jonathan Reynolds:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to ensure that the duties and responsibilities of police officers are taken into account in the review of public sector pensions by Lord Hutton. [44547]

**Nick Herbert:** The police pension schemes are included in the scope of the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission, led by Lord Hutton. The commission's final report, which was published on 10 March, makes recommendations on how public service pensions can be made sustainable and affordable in the long-term and fair to both the public service work force and the taxpayer. The Government will consider the commission's findings, taking into account the duties and responsibilities of police officers, before proposing any changes to the police pension schemes. Any changes will be subject to the normal consultation processes with the Police Negotiating Board in line with statutory requirements.

### Police: Retirement

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 44W, on police: retirement, if she will review the operation of Rule A19 following the report of Lord Hutton on public sector pensions. [46890]

**Nick Herbert:** The Government are considering the recommendations published by Lord Hutton in the final report of the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission on 10 March and will respond in due course.

The Government are also considering the recommendations published by Tom Winsor in the Part 1 Report of the Independent Review of Police Officer and Staff Remuneration and Conditions on 8 March 2011 (Cm 8024). He has recommended that the criteria for the use of the powers in Regulation A19 should be amended, with service-critical skills and performance being explicit considerations.

### Serious Organised Crime Agency

**Mr Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much money the Serious Organised Crime Agency has recovered in *(a)* Northern Ireland, *(b)* England, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Wales in each year since its inception; [47251]

(2) what the estimated monetary value is of assets recovered by the Serious Organised Crime Agency in each year since its inception. [47252]

**James Brokenshire:** The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) does not break down recovery of assets by country as SOCA is a UK-wide organisation. The figures for the whole of the UK for each year are available in their annual reports on their website:

http://www.soca.gov.uk/

### Squatting

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many buildings on her Department's estate were occupied by squatters in each year between 2006 and 2010; and on how many occasions her Department sought interim possession orders to remove squatters from such buildings in each of those years. [47613]

**Damian Green:** The Department obtained an interim possession order on one property briefly occupied by squatters in December 2009 prior to its sale in April 2010.

### Visas

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many visas to enter and remain in the UK have been revoked in each of the last five years; [47448]

(2) how many people who had their visas revoked and were scheduled for removal in each of the last five years were not subsequently deported. [47449]

**Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency does not keep a central record of the number of individuals whose leave was curtailed or revoked for breaching their visa conditions. This information could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

## TRANSPORT

### Cycling England: Finance

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the budget for Cycling England *(a)* was in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11 and *(b)* will be for (A) 2011-12, (B) 2012-13, (C) 2013-14 and (D) 2014-15. [46649]

**Norman Baker:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* Cycling England's budget in:

(i) 2009-10 was £60 million;

(ii) 2010-11 was £58 million.

*(b)* Cycling England will cease to exist on 31 March 2011 and therefore has no budget beyond this date.

### Driving Tests

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of trends in driving test pass rates since the introduction of the approved driving instructor test. [48071]

**Mike Penning:** No assessment of trends in driving test pass rates has been made since the introduction of qualifying examinations for approved driving instructors over 40 years ago.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the pass rates for *(a)* Part 1, *(b)* Part 2 and *(c)* Part 3 of the approved driving instructor test. [48072]

**Mike Penning:** No such assessment of pass rates for approved driving instructor tests has been made.

### HM Coastguard

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has assessed the merits of a five-year transition period between the current and proposed operating models of HM Coastguard. [47004]

**Mike Penning:** In developing the proposal outlined in the consultation document 'Protecting our Seas and Shores in the 21st Century' the Maritime and Coastguard Agency made a strategic assessment of what time might be required to achieve a transition from the current HM Coastguard structure to the proposed new operating model. This process concluded that a transition plan of five years or over was not necessary.

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has conducted a risk assessment in respect of the transition period for the re-configuration of HM Coastguard. [47022]

**Mike Penning:** No final decision has yet been taken regarding the re-configuration of HM Coastguard.

An assessment of the risks presented by any transition from the current structure to that which is agreed following the public consultation will be undertaken once this decision has been made. This will involve assessing the impacts and risks to public safety and HM Coastguard's international obligations and provide appropriate risk management strategies when implementing potentially significant change to staff, infrastructure and concept of operations.

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps are being taken in respect of *(a)* staff and *(b)* administration of on-going operations in Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres that are due to be closed after the reconfiguration of HM Coastguard. [47040]

**Mike Penning:** No final decision has been undertaken on the reconfiguration of HM Coastguard. Any decision on whether a Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres (MRCC) remains open or closes will only be taken following the completion of the current public consultation.

As part of this consultation the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has asked for comments and supporting evidence on any factors relevant to such decisions. I have extended the period for written submissions to the consultation by six weeks until 5 May 2011 to ensure these factors are fully considered.

Therefore the ongoing administration of all MRCCs remains subject to the normal operational procedures of HM Coastguard. Since the consultation was launched on 16 December 2011 the senior management of the MCA has fully engaged with the staff covered by these proposals. This has involved staff meetings attended by senior managers to respond to questions. The MCA's chief executive will have visited all MRCCs to both talk to, and take questions from staff, by the end of the consultation period.

### Southeastern Trains: Performance

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the rate of *(a)* punctuality and *(b)* cancellation of passenger rail services operated on routes on the Southeastern franchise other than over High Speed One was in the latest period for which figures are available. [43455]

**Mr Philip Hammond** *[holding answer 2 March 2011]:* The Department for Transport does not hold performance data for southeastern at the level of detail requested. Network Rail is responsible for performance data for the rail industry. The hon. Gentleman may wish to contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for such information:

David Higgins
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London N1 9AG

### Maritime and Coastguard Agency

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he considered operating models in other countries when developing the proposed operating model for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency; and whether he had discussions with corresponding agencies in other countries. [46999]

**Mike Penning:** The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) maintains close contact with international coastguard organisations both within the European Union and North Atlantic rim. It should be noted that these countries organise their coastguard functions very differently making it difficult to directly compare them to Her Majesty's Coastguard.

However, when considering the proposals the MCA did assess whether any element would be in contradiction to operational practice elsewhere in the world; no such contradiction was found. The Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (IAMSAR) manual published by the International Maritime Organisation states:

> "Every SRR [Search and Rescue Region] has unique transportation, climate, topography and physical characteristics. These factors create a different set of problems for SAR operation in each SRR. Such factors influence the choice and composition of the services, facilities, equipment and staffing required by each SAR service."

### Motor Vehicles: Insurance

**Mr Nuttall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to reduce the costs of motor insurance premiums for drivers who are between 17 and 25 years of age. [44468]

**Mike Penning** *[holding answer 7 March 2011]:* The setting of premiums is a commercial decision for individual insurers and younger drivers pay more because they pose a higher risk to insurers. The Government are, however, taking a number of measures to help mitigate insurance costs, including steps to tackle uninsured driving and insurance fraud and to reduce the costs of litigation.

Continuous insurance enforcement will come into effect in the next few months to identify uninsured vehicles, which will make it harder to evade detection and penalties if vehicles are driven without the driver being insured. We are working with insurers to allow them access to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency drivers' database in order to tackle insurance fraud at the underwriting stage. The Ministry of Justice has consulted on measures for reducing litigation costs and working with enforcement agencies and insurers to tackle fraud. These steps will all help to reduce insurance premiums, including for young drivers.

We are also considering how the driver testing and training process can be improved to better prepare new drivers for the roads, and therefore reduce their risks and hence insurance premiums.

### Rolling Stock

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the saving to the public purse of not introducing an all-electric fleet of trains under the Intercity Express Programme. [45246]

**Mrs Villiers:** Introducing the bi-mode option for the Intercity Express Programme is estimated to save around £200 million (net present value) as compared to introducing a fleet of all-electric trains to be coupled to a diesel locomotive beyond the electrified sections of the railway.

### Sea Rescue: Falmouth

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria were applied by his Department when taking the decision to place an HM Coastguard sub-centre at Falmouth rather than Brixham. [47062]

**Mike Penning:** The proposed locations of sub-centres are based on a range of operational and value for money factors. These are outlined on pages 22 and 23 of the consultation document 'Protecting our Seas and Shores in the 21st Century', which was published on 16 December 2010. Further detail is available in the supporting document 'Location Impact Assessment and Sub-Centre Rationale', which was published on the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's (MCA) website:

www.mcga.gov.uk

on 11 February 2011.

As part of this consultation the MCA has asked for comments and supporting evidence on any factors relevant to these choices. I have extended the period for written submissions to the consultation by six weeks until 5 May 2011 to ensure these factors are fully considered.

### Tolls: EC Action

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of *(a)* the Eurovignette directive and *(b)* whether it will entail any cost to (i) the public purse and (ii) motorists; whether he has considered proposals for the introduction of further road tolls; and if he will make a statement. [46856]

**Mike Penning:** The Eurovignette directive sets out common rules for levying charges or tolls on heavy goods vehicles. It does not require such charging. As such the directive does not entail any cost to the public purse or to motorists.

The Government plan to introduce a charging scheme for heavy goods vehicles, compatible with the directive and compensating UK hauliers as far as possible for the new charge.

There will be no national road pricing scheme for cars in this Parliament, nor any preparation for one. Tolling new roads will be considered on a case by case basis.

### Transport for London: Finance

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the revenue budget was for the general Transport for London grant as allocated *(a)* for 2010-11 by the previous administration and *(b)* in the March 2010 budget. [46643]

**Norman Baker:** The Department for Transport's 2010-11 general Transport for London grant was £2,872 million. This figure was agreed as part of the Spring Supplementary Estimate process under the previous Administration and was not revised in the March 2010 budget.

### Transport: Free Schools

**Teresa Pearce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance his Department plans to issue to free schools on the safety of children travelling to and from free schools. [44528]

**Mike Penning:** The Department for Transport has developed educational resources covering the safety of children on all journeys. These are available to all schools, and to children and their parents.

### Trust Ports

**Ms Ritchie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what responsibilities he has for trust ports. [47720]

**Mike Penning:** Each trust port is an independent statutory body, governed by its own local legislation without shareholders and controlled by an independent board. The Secretary of State for Transport is responsible for policy towards trust ports in England and Wales. Ports policy is a devolved matter in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

### Wrexham, Shropshire and Marylebone Railway Company

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when his Department first received notice that the Wrexham and Shropshire Railway was to cease operations. [44904]

**Mrs Villiers** *[holding answer 8 March 2011]:* The Department for Transport was made aware that the company was about to cease operations on 25 January 2011.

## JUSTICE

### Alcoholic Drinks: Convictions

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders were found guilty of *(a)* drunk and disorderly behaviour and *(b)* drunk and aggravated behaviour in each police force area in England and Wales in the latest period for which figures are available. [47675]

**Mr Blunt:** The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for selected offences under the Licensing Act 1872 and Criminal Justice Act 1967, by police force area, England and Wales in 2009 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring of 2011.

*Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for selected offences under the Licensing Act 1872[1] and Criminal Justice Act 1967[2], by police force area, England and Wales, 2009[3,4]*

| | Found guilty | |
|---|---|---|
| *Police force area* | *Licensing Act 1872* | *Criminal Justice Act 1967* |
| Avon and Somerset | 46 | 189 |
| Bedfordshire | 6 | 35 |
| Cambridgeshire | 51 | 107 |
| Cheshire | 5 | 428 |
| City of London | 1 | 40 |
| Cleveland | — | 313 |

*Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for selected offences under the Licensing Act 1872[1] and Criminal Justice Act 1967[2], by police force area, England and Wales, 2009[3,4]*

| | Found guilty | |
|---|---|---|
| *Police force area* | *Licensing Act 1872* | *Criminal Justice Act 1967* |
| Cumbria | 24 | 323 |
| Derbyshire | 3 | 221 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 148 | 688 |
| Dorset | 10 | 226 |
| Durham | 4 | 101 |
| Essex | 9 | 293 |
| Gloucestershire | 1 | 50 |
| Greater Manchester | 1 | 711 |
| Hampshire | 36 | 481 |
| Hertfordshire | 2 | 80 |
| Humberside | 4 | 158 |
| Kent | 23 | 314 |
| Lancashire | 5 | 1,199 |
| Leicestershire | — | 59 |
| Lincolnshire | — | 127 |
| Merseyside | 7 | 1,839 |
| Metropolitan police | 28 | 1,111 |
| Norfolk | 1 | 232 |
| North Yorkshire | 49 | 307 |
| Northamptonshire | 2 | 57 |
| Northumbria | 38 | 3,118 |
| Nottinghamshire | 2 | 283 |
| South Yorkshire | 2 | 837 |
| Staffordshire | 83 | 230 |
| Suffolk | 3 | 25 |
| Surrey | 29 | 115 |
| Sussex | 91 | 413 |
| Thames Valley | 34 | 233 |
| Warwickshire | 1 | 91 |
| West Mercia | 5 | 370 |
| West Midlands | 6 | 1,098 |
| West Yorkshire | 26 | 1,067 |
| Wiltshire | 4 | 90 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 27 | 106 |
| Gwent | — | 241 |
| North Wales | 6 | 139 |
| South Wales | 11 | 175 |
| England and Wales | 834 | 18,320 |

[1] Licensing Act 1872 S.12—Drunkenness, simple
Being found drunk in a highway or other public place, whether a building or not, or on licensed premises

[2] Criminal Justice Act 1967 S.9—Drunkenness, with aggravations
Being guilty while drunk of disorderly behaviour

[3] These statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

## Bail

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department issues to magistrates on granting bail to a convicted defendant in circumstances where the case has been sent to the Crown Court for sentence. [47316]

**Mr Blunt:** The Ministry of Justice does not issue guidance on the grant of bail in these matters, which is at the discretion of the court.

## Chief Coroner

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the potential savings to his Department of removing the posts of *(a)* chief coroner, *(b)* deputy chief coroner, *(c)* medical adviser to the chief coroner and *(d)* deputy medical adviser to the chief coroner. [47725]

**Mr Djanogly:** None of the posts have yet been brought into operation, so abolition would not give rise to any savings for current expenditure. The financial impact of full implementation of Part One of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, which provides for each of these posts, has been estimated at £10.9 million in set-up costs, and £6.6 million in running costs.

## Crime

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were arrested for an offence but then either charged with or prosecuted for a lesser offence *(a)* before and *(b)* after the matter reached court in the latest period for which figures are available. [47394]

**Mr Blunt:** It is not possible to derive how many people arrested for an offence were prosecuted for a lesser offence as arrests data collated by the Home Office are not linked to court proceedings data collated by the Ministry of Justice.

Charging data are not collected centrally.

## Criminal Injuries Compensation

**Mr Nuttall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hammersmith of 10 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 394W, on criminal injuries compensation, when he plans to complete the review of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme. [47299]

**Mr Blunt:** The Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme is currently subject to review. We intend to bring forward proposals in due course.

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to bring forward proposals to change the categories of people eligible for compensation under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme; whether he plans to change the monetary value of awards made under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme; whether the Government has commissioned research into options for the reform of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme; and what plans he has for the funding of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme in each of the next four years. [47236]

**Mr Blunt:** The Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme is currently subject to review. We intend to bring forward proposals in due course.

The budget for compensation payments for England and Wales will remain at its current level for the next financial year. The budget for future years has not yet been decided.

### Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in respect of how many cases under consideration by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority the claimant had not been notified of a resolution on the latest date for which figures are available; how many of those cases had been filed more than *(a)* six, *(b)* 12, *(c)* 18 and *(d)* 24 months prior to that date; how many compensation awards to victims of crime are outstanding; and how many such people have been waiting for such awards for more than (i) three months, (ii) six months, (iii) nine months and (iv) one year. [47237]

**Mr Djanogly:** The information requested is as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Outstanding cases as at 11 March 2011 | 47,505 |
| Cases less than six months | 22,727 |
| Greater than six but less than 12 months | 11,349 |
| Greater than 12 but less than 18 months | 4,919 |
| Greater than 18 but less than 24 months | 2,664 |
| Greater than 24 months | 5,846 |

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many award decisions made by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority in the last *(a)* six and *(b)* 12 months have been referred to a Criminal Injuries Compensation tribunal; and how many such tribunals have (i) overturned and (ii) amended the award. [47341]

**Mr Djanogly:** The information requested is as follows:

| | *In last six months* | *In last 12 months* |
|---|---|---|
| Cases appealed | 1,408 | 2,844 |
| Decisions overturned | 302 | 443 |
| Awards amended | 328 | 490 |

### Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority: Terrorism

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many individual payments the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority made in respect of *(a)* terrorism-related and *(b)* non terrorism-related cases in each of the last five years; and what the mean average payment was in each category in each such year. [47235]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) pays awards based on the injuries people receive, not the crime they were a victim of, and therefore do not hold that information.

### Domestic Violence

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what targets his Department has set for the progression of court cases related to domestic violence offences; and how his Department collects information to assist in monitoring progress towards such targets. [47318]

**Mr Djanogly:** There is no separate target for the progression of domestic violence offences. There is a target for the progression of all adult charged cases in the magistrates courts to reduce the average time from charge to disposal to six weeks or less. Latest data from the Time Intervals Survey collected in December 2010 shows that there has been a significant national improvement from 8.8 weeks (baseline set in March 2007) to 6.4 weeks.

### Family Breakdown

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he has taken to reduce the incidence of family breakdown since his appointment. [48123]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Ministry of Justice does not have a direct role to play in reducing the incidence of family breakdown. However, we are committed to encouraging the public to resolve their issues out of court without recourse to public funds, using simpler, more informal remedies where they are appropriate. Therefore, we want to ensure that everyone involved in family proceedings, whether publicly funded or not, is aware of family mediation as an alternative means of resolving disputes to going to court.

On 23 February I announced that we will be increasing awareness and understanding of family mediation through a new Pre-Application Protocol for Family Mediation Information and Assessment meetings.

My Department is also working closely with the Department for Education and the Department for Work and Pensions with the aim of joining up support to separating and separated parents so they receive the help they need to work together and make post-separation arrangements that are in their children's best interests.

### Interim Possession Orders

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions for breaching interim possession orders there were in each year since 2007. [47718]

**Mr Blunt:** The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences of failing to comply with requirements of an interim possession order from 2007-09 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication in spring 2011.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, England and Wales, 2007 to 2009*[1,2,3]

| *Description* | *Statute* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Failure to leave land within 24 hours of interim possession order or returning within one year of it | Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, s.76. | 1 | 1 | 1 |

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe. [2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used. [3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

*Source:* Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

## Juries

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate has been made of the number of defendants who elect for jury trial at the Crown court each year for either way offences where magistrates have accepted jurisdiction and deem the cases to be suitable for summary trial in the latest period for which figures are available. [47392]

**Mr Blunt:** The following table contains the latest available data for the first three quarters of 2010, showing the breakdown between the number of either-way cases that went to the Crown court:

(i) on the direction of the magistrates court, and

(ii) by the defendant's election.

*Number of triable either-way cases committed to the Crown court for trial, by reason for committal, England and Wales, 2010 Q1 to 2010 Q3*[1, 2, 3]

| | | | Reason for committal | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Quarter* | *Total* | *Unrecorded* | *Defendant election*[4] | *Magistrate direction*[5] |
| 2010 | Q1 | 16,072 | 4,454 | 2,636 | 8,982 |
| | Q2 | 15,447 | 2,395 | 2,913 | 10,139 |
| | Q3 | 15,298 | 4,647 | 1,881 | 8,770 |

[1] The reporting period is based on the date the case was committed to the Crown court.
[2] Only includes committals direct from the magistrates court. Excludes bench warrants executed and transferred cases.
[3] Excludes voluntary bills and transfer certificates.
[4] Includes defendants that elect for trial in the Crown court.
[5] Includes defendants who are committed for trial to the Crown court 'on direction of the magistrates' and 'on direction of the magistrates after a request from the prosecution'.
*Source:*
HM Courts Service CREST System.

## Olympic Games 2012

**Robert Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what specific guidance his Department plans to issue to *(a)* businesses and *(b)* ticketing agents on the sale of London 2012 Olympics hospitality packages. [47874]

**Mr Blunt:** We have no plans to issue guidance specifically in relation to corporate hospitality packages at the London 2012 Olympics.

The issue of corporate hospitality will be covered in the guidance I will be publishing under section 9 of the Bribery Act about commercial organisations preventing bribery. This will make clear that corporate hospitality which seeks to improve the image of a commercial organisation, better to present products and services, or establish cordial relations, is recognised as an established and important part of doing business, and it is not the intention of the Act to criminalise such behaviour.

## Police: Sentencing

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 1271W, on assaults on police: sentencing, for what types of indictable-only offence a caution was issued between 2007 and 2009. [47423]

**Mr Blunt:** The number of offenders cautioned for indictable only offences, by offence group and offence class, England and Wales 2007 to 2009 (latest available) are shown in the table.

The answer of 10 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 1271W, presented 5,371 cautions for indictable only offences in 2007. Further investigation has revealed that cautions for two offences included in this figure had been incorrectly recorded on Ministry of Justice systems as indictable only. Once these offences are removed the number of cautions for indictable only offences in 2007 is 2,676. The table as follows includes a full offence breakdown.

Data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring of 2011.

*Number of offenders cautioned*[1, 2] *for indictable only offences, by offence group and offence class, England and Wales, 2007-09*[3]

| *Offence group/offence class* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Violence against the person* | | | |
| Threat or conspiracy to murder | 6 | 3 | 4 |
| Wounding or other act endangering life | 142 | 109 | 129 |
| Endangering railway passenger | — | 6 | 1 |
| Malicious wounding | 401 | 192 | 91 |
| Procuring illegal abortion | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | | | |
| *Sexual offences* | | | |
| Buggery | 4 | — | — |
| Indecent assault on a male | 2 | 1 | 7 |
| Rape | 34 | 35 | 22 |
| Indecent assault on a female | 51 | 31 | 31 |
| Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 13 | 10 | 9 | 4 |
| Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 16 | 154 | 154 | 140 |
| Incest | 11 | 7 | 7 |
| Procuration | 1 | 2 | — |

*Number of offenders cautioned[1] [2] for indictable only offences, by offence group and offence class, England and Wales, 2007-09[3]*

| *Offence group/offence class* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Abduction | — | — | 2 |
| Sexual activity with a person with a mental disorder | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| Child prostitution and pornography | — | — | 1 |
| *Burglary* | | | |
| Burglary in a dwelling | 141 | 106 | 74 |
| Aggravated burglary in a dwelling (including attempts) | 4 | 5 | 2 |
| Burglary in a building other than a dwelling | 149 | 121 | 68 |
| Aggravated burglary in a building other than a dwelling | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Robbery | 614 | 382 | 205 |
| Theft and handling stolen goods | 1 | — | — |
| *Fraud and forgery* | | | |
| Conspiracy to defraud | 34 | 31 | 13 |
| Offences relating to ID documents | 232 | 259 | 161 |
| *Criminal damage* | | | |
| Arson | 47 | 32 | 24 |
| Threat or possession with intent to commit criminal damage | 29 | 19 | 7 |
| *Drug offences* | | | |
| Misuse of drugs | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| *Other indictable only* | | | |
| Blackmail | 23 | 16 | 16 |
| Kidnapping | 41 | 26 | 26 |
| Perjury | 13 | 10 | 11 |
| Libel | — | 1 | — |
| Offender Management offences | — | 4 | 23 |
| Perverting the course of justice | 286 | 217 | 224 |
| Absconding from lawful custody | 50 | 28 | 21 |
| Firearms offences | 169 | 129 | 79 |
| Failing to surrender to bail | 2 | — | — |
| Other indictable offences | 11 | 4 | 6 |
| Indictable only offences | 2,676 | 1,945 | 1,405 |
| *Offences incorrectly recorded as indictable only* | | | |
| Drunkenness, with aggravation | 43 | n/a | n/a |
| Assaults occasioning actual bodily harm | 2,652 | n/a | n/a |
| Total | 5,371 | 1,945 | 1,405 |

n/a = Not applicable.

[1] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When an offender has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

## Prerogative Power of Mercy

**Charlie Elphicke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criteria are in place in relation to the advice he offers on the use of the prerogative power of mercy. [47320]

**Mr Blunt:** Anyone convicted of a criminal offence can seek to appeal their conviction and/or sentence. If an appeal is unsuccessful, or in exceptional cases where there has been no appeal, the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) can review the case. If the CCRC think there is a real possibility that the conviction and/or sentence would not be upheld, they can refer the case back to the appeal court.

By long-standing convention, the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), would only recommend exercise of the Royal Prerogative of Mercy in relation to a criminal conviction if new evidence had come to light which had not been considered by the court and it was impractical to refer the case to an appellate court to hear the new evidence. This policy reflects the constitutional position that it is the courts, not the Government, which decide whether a person is guilty of a criminal offence and, if they are, the appropriate sentence.

### Prison and Probation Ombudsman: Personnel

**Karl Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many former Prison Service staff worked for the Prison and Probation Ombudsman in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007, *(d)* 2008, *(e)* 2009 and *(f)* 2010. [45347]

**Mr Blunt:** As the head of an independent organisation, it is a matter for the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman to determine their staff. Staff have been recruited from a wide variety of employment backgrounds, including some having previously worked for HM Prison Service and probation. Detailed information on the precise numbers of staff, who have been employed by the prisons and probation ombudsman and previously employed by HM Prison Service, could be obtained only by access to the complete career history of all staff working for the PPO in these years. This is not held centrally by the PPO or MoJ and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Karl Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Prison Service staff were seconded from the Prison Service to the Prison and Probation Ombudsman in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007, *(d)* 2008, *(e)* 2009 and *(f)* 2010. [45348]

**Mr Blunt:** As the head of an independent organisation, it is a matter for the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO) to determine their staff. Staff are recruited or seconded from a wide variety of employment backgrounds, including some who have previously worked for HM Prison Service and probation. The following table gives numbers, as supplied by the PPO, of staff seconded from the prison service.

*Staff seconded by the PPO from the prison service by year*

| | *Number of staff*[1] |
|---|---:|
| 2005 | 7 |
| 2006 | 6 |
| 2007 | 8 |
| 2008 | 7 |
| 2009 | 4 |
| 2010 | 2 |

[1] Number seconded in December of that year.

### Probation: Expenditure

**Helen Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the outturn expenditure was for each probation trust in 2009-10. [47731]

**Mr Blunt:** The following table provides outturn expenditure for each probation trust and board in 2009-10.

| *Area* | *Probation Trust/(Board)* | *£ million 2009-10* |
|---|---|---:|
| North East | Durham Tees Valley | 11 |
| | Teesside | 14 |
| | Northumbria | 31 |
| Wales | Wales | 26 |
| | Dyfed Powys | 9 |
| | Gwent | 12 |
| | North Wales | 12 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | Humberside | 19 |
| | York and North Yorkshire | 10 |
| | South Yorkshire | 26 |
| | West Yorkshire | 44 |
| North West | Cheshire | 15 |
| | Cumbria | 9 |
| | Greater Manchester | 53 |
| | Lancashire | 24 |
| | Merseyside | 33 |
| West Midlands | Warwickshire | 7 |
| | West Mercia | 15 |
| | Staffordshire and West Midlands | 59 |
| | Staffordshire | 17 |
| East of England | Bedfordshire | 10 |
| | Cambridgeshire | 10 |
| | Essex | 21 |
| | Hertfordshire | 12 |
| | Norfolk and Suffolk | 12 |
| | Suffolk | 11 |
| East Midlands | Derbyshire | 15 |
| | Leicestershire | 15 |
| | Lincolnshire | 9 |
| | Northamptonshire | 9 |
| | Nottinghamshire | 20 |
| South West | Avon and Somerset | 20 |
| | Devon and Cornwall | 21 |
| | Dorset | 10 |
| | Gloucestershire | 8 |
| | Wiltshire | 9 |
| London | London | 152 |
| South East | Hampshire | 25 |
| | Kent | 22 |
| | Sussex | 19 |
| | Surrey and Sussex | 10 |
| | Thames Valley | 26 |
| Total | | 911 |

All Probation Boards were replaced by trusts on 1 April 2011. There are currently 35 Probation Trusts in total.

### Public Bodies Reform Programme

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10W, on the public bodies reform programme, what estimate he has made of the savings to his Department net of costs incurred in the assumption of additional departmental responsibilities to accrue from *(a)* the abolition of 11 public bodies within his Department's area of responsibility, *(b)* the merger of four such bodies and *(c)* the change in function of four such bodies. [48147]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** I will reply to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

### Secure Training Centres: Restraint Techniques

**Karl Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 125-28W, on secure training centres: restraint techniques, what the nature was of the minor injuries that resulted from the use of control and restraint procedures in each young offender institute juvenile unit in each month since April 2008; [45358]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2010, *Official* Report, columns 125-26W, on secure training centres: restraint techniques, what the nature was of the serious injuries that resulted from the use of control and restraint procedures in each young offender institute juvenile unit in each month since April 2008. [45359]

**Mr Blunt:** I have outlined in table 1 the number of minor injuries sustained as a result of using Control and Restraint (C&R) in young offender institutions (YOIs) for 15 to 17-year-olds. These have been updated since my last answer to the hon. Member for 25385 on 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 125-28W, as the data are now available for 2009-10 following the publication of the "Youth Justice Board Statistics 2009/2010".

I have outlined in table 2 the number of serious injuries sustained as a result of using C&R in YOIs for 15 to 17-year-olds. These have also been updated since my last answer to you for 25384 on 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 125-26W, as data are now available for 2009-10 following the publication of the "Youth Justice Board Statistics 2009/2010".

Data on the nature of minor or serious injuries that resulted from the use of C&R procedures are not held centrally by the Youth Justice Board (YJB). The YJB collects data across all secure establishments based on the following definitions:

*Minor injury requiring medical treatment*

This includes cuts, scratches, grazes, bloody noses, concussion, serious bruising and sprains where medical treatment is given by a member of staff or a nurse. Treatment could include cleaning and dressing wounds, providing pain relief and monitoring symptoms by a health professional (eg in relation to concussion). This includes first aid administered by a staff member.

*Serious injury requiring hospital treatment*

This includes serious cuts, fractures, loss of consciousness, damage to internal organs and poisoning. Where 24-hour healthcare is available the young person may remain onsite. At other establishments, the young person will be taken to a local hospital. Treatment will reflect the more serious nature of the injuries sustained and may include stitches, re-setting bones, operations and providing overnight observation.

The nature of the injuries that have been reported in the tables will fall under these definitions specified.

*Table 1: Minor injuries following the use of control and restraint procedures*

| | | | | | *2009* | | | | | | *2010* | | *2009-10* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Total* |
| Ashfield[1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 9 |
| Brinsford | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Castington | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Cookham Wood | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 24 |
| Downview | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastwood Park | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Feltham | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 15 |
| Foston Hall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hindley | 4 | [2]15 | [3]14 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 41 |
| Huntercombe | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| New Hall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Parc | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Stoke Heath | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Warren Hill | 5 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| Warren Hill—Carlford Unit | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Werrington | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 11 |
| Wetherby—Keppel Unit | — | — | — | — | — | — | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Wetherby[4] | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 9 |

*Table 2: Serious injuries following the use of control and restraint procedures*

| | | | | | *2009* | | | | | | *2010* | | *2009-10* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Total* |
| Ashfield[1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Table 2: Serious injuries following the use of control and restraint procedures*

| | 2009 | | | | | | | | | 2010 | | | 2009-10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Total* |
| Brinsford | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 0 |
| Castington | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Cookham Wood | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Downview | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastwood Park | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Feltham | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Foston Hall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hindley | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Huntercombe | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| New Hall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Parc | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Stoke Heath | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Warren Hill | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Warren Hill—Carlford Unit | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Werrington | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Wetherby—Keppel Unit | — | — | — | — | — | — | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Wetherby[4] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

[1] Data are not collected separately for Phoenix Unit (a specialist unit) within Ashfield YOI.

[2] and [3] The spike in May-June 2009 has been explained by the decommissioning of Lancaster Farms YOI site which led to a sudden influx to Hindley YOI of young men from outside the traditional catchment area for the YOI. This, combined with the increasing overall numbers, contributed to a short period of instability, including increased assaults amongst the young people. The YOI introduced a new 'rewards and sanctions' system for the inmates which helped bring stability from July 2009. However, it should also be noted that the information collected on injuries after restraint may include pre-restraint injuries (such as injuries from a fight or assault).

[4] Data are not collected separately for Anson Unit (a specialist unit) within Wetherby YOI.

## Sentencing

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1283W, on sentencing, what assessment has been made of the potential effects on *(a)* the police, *(b)* businesses, *(c)* individuals and *(d)* the probation service of increasing the maximum discount available for an early guilty plea. [47393]

**Mr Blunt:** If an increased discount for an early guilty plea had the desired effect of encouraging defendants to plead guilty at an earlier stage in the proceedings, it would potentially reduce burdens on the police (and the Crown Prosecution Service) to the extent that less effort would need to be devoted to assembling evidence, and on the probation service to the extent that where shorter sentences were imposed, a smaller percentage of offenders would be subject to post release supervision and these periods of supervision would also be shorter resulting in a reduction in probation workload, although it would also be possible for there to be greater demand on the service through a long community order rather than a short prison sentence. Victims and witnesses would benefit from a prompt resolution of the case, as they would no longer need to worry about having to go to court to give evidence. We would not anticipate that there would be any effect on businesses.

## Sentencing: Appeals

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1284W, on sentencing: appeals, what power a Crown court appeal tribunal has to send a case to the Crown court for sentence where it believes that the magistrates court's powers are insufficient in all circumstances. [47391]

**Mr Blunt:** When the Crown court determines an appeal against conviction or sentence in a magistrates court, its sentencing powers are limited to those that were available to the magistrates court.

## Social Security Benefits: Appeals

**Dame Anne Begg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the *(a)* median and *(b)* longest waiting time was for appeals to be heard in respect of (i) disability living allowance and (ii) employment and support allowance in the latest period for which figures are available; [47347]

(2) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* median and *(b)* longest time period between (i) application for appeal and (ii) determination of that appeal in respect of (A) disability living allowance and (B) employment and support allowance in the latest period for which figures are available; [47348]

(3) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* median and *(b)* longest waiting time for an appeal to be heard in respect of (i) disability living allowance and (ii) employment and support allowance in each region in the latest period for which figures are available. [47349]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Tribunals Service is collating this information. I will write to the hon. Member shortly and put a copy of the answer in the Library of the House.

## Theft: Dogs

**Charlie Elphicke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether theft of a dog is a crime; and what the sentencing guidelines are in connection with such an offence. [47519]

**Mr Blunt:** A person is guilty of theft if he dishonestly appropriates property belonging to another with the intention of permanently depriving the other of it. The maximum penalty is seven years' imprisonment. The Sentencing Guidelines Council, the predecessor body to the Sentencing Council, issued guidelines on theft and these can be accessed on the council's website.

### Victims: Compensation

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the monetary value is of outstanding compensation payments to victims of crime. [47231]

**Mr Djanogly:** There is currently an estimated outstanding liability of around £660 million. This estimate includes all cases in the system, so most of these cases are still under investigation.

### Youth Justice Board

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the potential savings to his Department arising from the abolition of the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales. [47740]

**Mr Blunt:** Abolition of the Youth Justice Board is estimated to achieve savings in order of £6 million across the four years of the spending review period. Further savings may be identified during the detailed consideration of the transition although there may be transition costs to absorb from these savings.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture

**Dr Wollaston:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures she is taking to promote sustainable farming; and what assessment she has made on the effect this will have on *(a)* Totnes constituency, *(b)* South Devon and *(c)* England. [47526]

**Mr Paice:** The first priority in DEFRA's business plan is to support British farming and encourage sustainable food production. Sustainable farming is essential to protect the natural resources on which future food production depends, and to protect biodiversity and the countryside. We are working closely with industry partners to achieve this: by backing the industry led Campaign for the Farmed Environment and Greenhouse Gas Action Plan. Specific support that DEFRA provides to farmers to help them undertake sustainable farming is funding via the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) in the form of agri-environment schemes such as Entry Level Stewardship, Higher Level Stewardship and Uplands Entry Level Stewardship. We also provide advice and guidance on effective nutrient management of land to maximise efficiency whilst minimising environmental impacts.

The Department uses a number of complementary approaches to assess the economic, environmental and social impacts of sustainable farming policies, including on the wider rural economy, but measured principally at a national level. These include specific evaluation projects, such as that of the RDPE, monitoring the uptake of relevant schemes, such as Entry Level Stewardship and the Campaign for the Farmed Environment, and developing comprehensive indicator sets to monitor progress along the economic, environmental and social vectors. Among these a small number of high level impact indicators will be used to track progress with respect to the DEFRA business plan but a much wider range of information is available, in particular, from the Agricultural Change and Environment Observatory indicator set, published at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/evidence/statistics/foodfarm/enviro/observatory/indicators/index.htm

### Anaerobic Digestion

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will set limits on the use of energy crops in anaerobic digestion programmes; [46728]

(2) what her policy is on the use of energy crops in anaerobic digestion programmes; [46729]

(3) if she will estimate the quantity of crops used in anaerobic digestion programmes in each of the last three years. [46730]

**Richard Benyon:** As indicated in the 'Renewable Heat Incentive' report published by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) on 10 March, the Government recognise that at farm scale some energy crops may be required in combination with slurries and that such crops can be grown as part of the normal agricultural rotation. Furthermore, there is land available which is not suitable for the production of food crops but which may, therefore, be used to supply energy-crop only anaerobic digestion (AD) plants. However, it is not our policy to encourage energy crop-based AD, particularly where these crops are grown to the exclusion of food producing crops.

If evidence shows that there is a large scale use of crops in AD, and a resulting land use change to support this, then measures will be considered to address the issue. DECC and DEFRA will discuss how such a mechanism could work in practice, including possible measures to exclude the large scale use of energy crops in AD from renewable heat incentive support.

### Animal Welfare

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has received on issuing a strategy on standards of welfare of domestic animals. [45417]

**Mr Paice:** I am not aware of DEFRA having received any recent representations on this subject.

### Cotton Subsidies

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has held with *(a)* her EU counterparts and *(b)* the European Commission on EU cotton subsidies. [47849]

**Mr Paice:** The UK has consistently argued within the EU in favour of decoupling and against harmful export subsidies, although the specific subject of cotton subsidies has not been raised at the Agriculture Council itself since May 2010.

The forthcoming common agricultural policy reform negotiations will provide a major opportunity for the UK to raise this issue and seek an end to all coupled payments, including those to the cotton sector.

### Dairy Farming

**Dan Byles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of dairy farmers who have left the industry in each of the last 10 years. [47630]

**Mr Paice:** The following table gives the number of registered UK dairy production holdings recorded each June for the last 10 years for which figures are available, together with the change from the previous year.

| | *Holdings* | *Change from previous year* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 28,422 | -1,799 |
| 2001 | 26,556 | -1,866 |
| 2002 | 24,930 | -1,626 |
| 2003 | 22,992 | -1,938 |
| 2004 | 21,616 | -1,376 |
| 2005 | 20,313 | -1,303 |
| 2006 | 19,011 | -1,302 |
| 2007 | 17,915 | -1,096 |
| 2008 | 17,060 | -855 |
| 2009 | 16,404 | -656 |

**Dan Byles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* average income of (i) farmers and (ii) dairy farmers in the latest period for which figures are available. [47631]

**Mr Paice:** The June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture shows that there were 20,000 dairy farmers[1] and 165,000 farmers in total in England at June 2009. We estimate that there were 170,000 farmers in total at June 2010; estimates are not yet available by farm type.

The latest results from the Farm Business Survey estimate average Farm Business Income at £56,000 for dairy farms and at £43,400 for all farm types in England for the year ending February 2010. Forecasts for the main farm types have recently been published for the year ending February 2011. For dairy farms in England average Farm Business Income is forecast to be approximately £42,500.

[1] Farmers are defined as principal farmers, partners, directors and spouses. Farm type is classified by the activity which contributes more than two thirds of the total standard gross margin for the holding. These figures relate to commercial holdings only which are those above the thresholds for the 2010 census.

### Departmental Billing

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of invoices from suppliers her Department paid within 10 days of receipt in January and February 2011. [45091]

**Richard Benyon:** The following table shows the 10-day payment performance to suppliers for the core Department and Executive agencies.

| | | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| | *January 2011* | *February 2011* |
| Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Animal Health | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science | 73.0 | 92.0 |
| Rural Payments Agency | 100.0 | 98.7 |
| Veterinary Laboratories Agency | 86.3 | 89.6 |
| Veterinary Medicines Directorate | 99.0 | 98.0 |
| Food and Environment Research Agency | 88.4 | 94.1 |

### Departmental Food

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when she expects her Department to meet the Government's commitment to source food that meets British or equivalent standards of production; [43297]

(2) what her policy is on placing agencies of Government Departments under a commitment to source food that meets British or equivalent standards of production subject to no overall increase in costs. [43305]

**Mr Paice:** It is a Government commitment to ensure that food procured by Government Departments, and eventually the whole public sector, meets British standards of production wherever this can be achieved without increasing overall costs.

We are introducing Government Buying Standards (GBS) for food and catering, which will be mandatory for central Government Departments and executive agencies and promoted to the wider public sector. The external review of our proposed GBS criteria ended on 24 January and we are taking account of all the responses before we finalise the standards this month.

We also published new guidance in January to help ensure that Government Departments and executive agencies source food meeting British or equivalent standards of production, subject to no overall increase in costs. We will report on departmental progress against this commitment in June.

### Departmental Procurement

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many procurement projects with a monetary value greater than *(a)* £10 million, *(b)* £50 million and *(c)* £100 million (i) her Department and (ii) each non-departmental public body and agency for which she is responsible was engaged upon in the latest period for which figures are available. [45559]

**Richard Benyon:** The following table shows how many procurement projects with a monetary value greater than *(a)* £10 million, *(b)* £50 million and *(c)* £100 million (i) the Department and (ii) each non-departmental public body and agencies engaged upon for the periods 2009-10 and 2010-11.

| | *Fiscal year 2009-10* | | | *Fiscal year 2010-11* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *>£10 million* | *>£50 million* | *>£100 million* | *>£10 million* | *>£50 million* | *>£100 million* |
| Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Animal Health | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rural Payments Agency | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Veterinary Laboratories Agency | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Veterinary Medicines Directorate | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Food and Environment Research Agency | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Marine Management Organisation | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Environment Agency | 7 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gangmasters Licensing Authority | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Joint Nature Conservation Committee | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| National Forestry Company | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Natural England | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Royal Botanical Gardens—Kew | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sustainable Development Commission | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Commission for Rural Communities | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Consumer Council for Water | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

### Departmental Public Appointments

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which public bodies sponsored by her Department *(a)* have been and *(b)* are to be closed, merged or reorganised following her appointment; and how many (i) women and (ii) men who are public appointees at each body will no longer hold such an appointment in consequence. [47114]

**Richard Benyon:** The coalition Government are committed to increasing the accountability of public bodies, and this involves reducing their number and their cost to the taxpayer. The proposals for the majority of bodies across all departments were announced and published on 14 October 2010. An updated list reflecting changes since October 2010 has been published on the Cabinet Office website this month.

Summary information on public appointments is published annually by the Cabinet Office. This includes data on gender. Copies of the most recent report can be downloaded from:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/ndpb

### Regulation

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many occasions her Department has consulted representatives of small businesses on the effects of proposed new regulations since 6 May 2010. [46143]

**Richard Benyon:** A total of 15 formal written consultations have been launched by my Department since May 2010. Two of these consultations explored new regulations. The others were about updating existing regulations.

All these consultations have included small businesses or the Federation of Small Businesses.

### Departmental Security

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons persons not employed by Government Departments or agencies are issued with passes entitling them to enter her Department's premises. [43210]

**Richard Benyon:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 8 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 136W. For security reasons it would be inappropriate to provide information on why individuals not employed by DEFRA are issued with passes that permit access to the Department's premises.

### Dutch Elm Disease

**Michael Fallon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information her Department holds on the number of elm trees that were killed by Dutch elm disease on land owned or managed by the Forestry Commission in each year since 2000. [43806]

**Mr Paice** *[holding answer 3 March 2011]*: The Forestry Commission does not record information about the mortality of trees due to Dutch elm disease on the public forest estate.

### Farms: Sky Lanterns

**Mr Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has received on the effects on farmers and rural communities of the use of sky lanterns. [47313]

**Mr Paice** *[holding answer 17 March 2011]:* I have received a number of representations expressing concerns, which I share, on the risks to livestock of releasing sky lanterns. There are concerns of fire, damage to property, littering, and harm to livestock when a lantern lands nearby or on crops for feed.

DEFRA is working with other Government Departments and the farming unions to see what action can be taken to reduce the risks. We are urging consumers to think twice about releasing lanterns and recommending farmers remain alert to the dangers posed especially when they land near livestock or in fields of standing crop.

### Fisheries

**Mel Stride:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment the Environment Agency made of the recommendations and conclusions of the 2008 report by the University of Hull International Fisheries Institute on the condition assessment of Atlantic salmon in Dartmoor rivers. [47380]

**Richard Benyon:** The Environment Agency commissioned the report under the Habitats Directive Review of Consents, and it formed part of the assessment.

The Environment Agency has since implemented a number of recommendations from the report. The monitoring programme has been extended and the Environment Agency have either amended or agreed to amend 13 abstraction licences on Dartmoor. This has resulted in a significant reduction in the amount of water abstracted, which benefits the river environment and Atlantic salmon.

### Food Labelling

**Henry Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on labelling of retail products containing monosodium glutamate. [46412]

**Mr Paice:** The Food Labelling Regulations 1996 (as amended) require additives used as ingredients in foods to be declared in the ingredients list on food labels. Monosodium glutamate (MSG) is one such additive and when labelled must be identified by the term "flavour enhancer" followed by either "Monosodium Glutamate" or "E621".

### Forestry Commission

**Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to ensure that the Forestry Commission retains and develops its reserved research capability. [44542]

**Mr Paice:** We remain committed to research that will benefit the forestry industry as part of the GB activities of the Forestry Commission, and to maintaining our front-line science capacity, especially in high priority areas like plant health research. However, all activity areas have been asked to make reductions to meet the requirements of the spending review. Delivery of the Science and Innovation Strategy will remain a key element. Reducing transaction and back office costs will allow funding to be concentrated on evidence and science. High priority areas such as tree health and climate change will receive increased funding and we will work with other funders to ensure continued access to appropriate research capacity and capability, and to explore partnership opportunities to ensure best value for money.

Forest Research, which is a GB agency of the Forestry Commission, will restructure, and reprioritise its work as a result of the spending review settlement. The devolved Administrations in Scotland and Wales are being kept informed of developments. Forest Research will shortly be consulting staff on a proposed restructuring programme; no decisions will be made until the results of the consultation with staff and trade unions are known.

Tree health and plant biosecurity is a high priority and therefore I have asked my chief scientific adviser, Professor Bob Watson, to advise on the issues, opportunities and priorities for new research, and to ensure research outputs can have maximum impact on management solutions. Professor Bob Watson is jointly leading a project with the Forestry Commission director general, Tim Rollinson, to develop an "action plan" for tree health and plant biosecurity. One strand of the action plan will consider the issues, priorities and research opportunities. Professor Watson is already taking this forward with the Forestry Commission, Forest Research and the Food and Environment Research Agency, along with other interested parties such as the research councils and experts in academia. As well as identifying priorities for research, we are keen to explore all possible avenues for partnerships and co-funding to deliver this new work.

### Forests

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many hectares of land were *(a)* bought from and *(b)* sold to (i) private owners, (ii) community or charitable bodies and (iii) other public bodies by the Forestry Commission in each year since 1981. [39045]

**Mr Paice** *[holding answer 8 February 2011]:* Land acquired and added to the public forest estate between January 1997 and 10 February 2011, including where the freehold of an existing leasehold wood was purchased, amounted to 5,432 hectares. Of this area, 3,986 hectares was classified as being from private owners, 242 hectares from community or charitable bodies and 1,204 hectares from other public bodies.

Disposals from January 2003 to 10 February 2011 amounted to 7,292 hectares, of this, 6,355 hectares was classified as being to private owners, 353 hectares to community or charitable bodies and 584 hectares to other public bodies.

Information before the dates specified above could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she received from the Confederation of Forest Industries on her policy on the disposal of land owned and managed by the Forestry Commission. [43374]

**Mr Paice:** In the period since the end of the consultation on the future of the public forest estate in England, we have not received any written representations from the Confederation of Forest Industries (ConFor) on this matter. However, I did meet the chief executive of ConFor in February to discuss the public forest estate and since the consultation has ended, ConFor has written to request a further meeting. He has since been invited to serve on the panel that will review the future of the public forest estate in England.

### Gangmasters Licensing Authority

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people worked on the enforcement of employment rights and related protections in the Gangmasters Licensing Authority in each of the last five years; how many people she expects to work on such matters in that body in each of the next three years; and if she will make a statement. [47437]

**Mr Paice:** The Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA) employs a number of staff in frontline roles which support its compliance and enforcement activities. These staff are involved in processing gangmasters licence applications, analysing intelligence reports and carrying out compliance and enforcement inspections.

The number of frontline staff employed by the GLA in each of the last five financial years is set out in the following table. The table also includes a forecast of the number of licensing, enforcement and intelligence staff the GLA expects to employ in each of the next three financial years.

| *Officer* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* | *2011-12* | *2012-13* | *2013-14* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Licensing | 4 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 8 |
| Intelligence | 4 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 11 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| Compliance[1] | 10 | 11 | 10 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Enforcement | 12 | 20 | 16 | 42 | 51 | 43 | 38 | 36 |
| Total | 30 | 38 | 37 | 60 | 70 | 61 | 56 | 53 |

[1] The compliance officer and enforcement officer roles were combined in 2009-10.

### Genetically Modified Organisms: Somerset

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many parties were involved in the contamination of a winter oilseed rape crop with the GM trait GT73 at a location in Somerton and Frome constituency in 2008; who owned *(a)* the land involved, *(b)* the seed varieties contaminated and *(c)* the GM trait; and whether the seed variety involved (i) has been placed on or (ii) is under assessment for inclusion on the National List of Varieties. [32840]

**Mr Paice:** Two parties were directly involved in the seed contamination incident in the Somerton and Frome constituency in 2008. They were the farmer who grew some of the affected seed in part of a field on his holding, and the company who owned the seed. The latter was a subsidiary of Aardvark Investments SA. The GT73 trait is owned by the company Monsanto. The conventional seed variety is not being considered for inclusion on the UK National List.

The question of whether the name of the farmer involved in this incident should be disclosed has in effect just been reviewed in a relevant case before an Information Tribunal. In this, the GM Freeze organisation appealed against a decision by the Information Commissioner that DEFRA was justified in not disclosing the precise location of the Somerset incident, in part because it would serve to reveal the identity of the farmer and could unfairly prejudice his interests. After considering the matter in detail, the tribunal has recently decided to dismiss the GM Freeze appeal, upholding the stance taken by the Information Commissioner and DEFRA.

### Horse Racing: Animal Welfare

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will meet representatives of the British Horseracing Authority to discuss the use of the whip in horseracing; and if she will make a statement. [47976]

**Mr Paice:** There are no plans for the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to meet the British Horseracing Authority (BHA).

We consider that the guidelines laid down by the BHA, in conjunction with the Animal Welfare Act, provide protection for horses against misuse of the whip.

### Labelling

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of her policy on the labelling of products to indicate whether they contain material from the offspring of cloned animals since December 2010. [43998]

**Mr Paice:** The Food Standards Agency and the European Food Safety Authority have advised that, for cattle and pigs, current evidence suggests that meat and milk from healthy descendants of clones is as safe as that from traditionally bred animals. The Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes reached the same conclusion on 25 November 2010.

There is no suggestion currently that food from clones themselves would be sold for human consumption. The agency concluded on 7 December that, for food safety purposes, mandatory labelling of meat and milk from the descendants of cloned cattle and pigs would be unnecessary and disproportionate, providing no significant food safety benefit to consumers.

It is not possible to establish whether meat or milk derive from an animal with a clone in its ancestry. Any mandatory labelling imposes costs and needs to be enforceable. Labelling to the effect that a product may be derived from an animal with a clone in its ancestry is unlikely to be helpful to consumers.

If some parts of industry wish to set up their own system of labelling for the offspring of clones, they are of course free to do so, providing that they carry out the necessary checks to justify any claims that they make.

### Milk Prices

**David Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with representatives of supermarkets on the proportion of the retail price of milk paid to dairy farmers; and if she will make a statement. [46832]

**Mr Paice:** On 20 January I chaired the Dairy Supply Chain Forum, which included representatives of supermarket retailers. We had productive discussions on the health and future of the dairy sector, the trade balance, the EU Commission's legislative proposals and industry sustainability. We did not explicitly discuss the issue of milk prices because this would not be appropriate under competition law.

### Peat

**Mr Brine:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps she plans to take to ensure that future peat replacement targets are met by the gardening and horticulture industry; [47767]

(2) what consideration she has given to the regulation of the use of peat in horticultural compost. [47768]

**Richard Benyon:** A public consultation on future policy to further reduce and eventually phase out the horticultural use of peat in England recently closed, on 11 March. The consultation proposed that a voluntary, partnership approach is followed to deliver phase out targets, including for the amateur gardener market and professional horticulture, and sets out the rationale for doing so. Consultation responses are now being analysed, and will inform the development of a future policy framework.

### Phytophthora Ramorum

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has commissioned any research on measures to combat phytophthora ramorum; and whether she has made an assessment of its likely effects in the next 10 years. [45219]

**Mr Paice:** DEFRA has invested £1.5 million of research on Phytophthora ramorum and Phytophthora kernoviae since April 2009 as part of its five-year £25 million Phytophthora Disease Management Programme. The Food and Environment Research Agency and Forest Research are the lead partners in carrying out the research, which supports disease management in woodlands, heathland and heritage gardens and parks. It builds on a substantial body of research funded by DEFRA, the Forestry Commission, the EU, the industry and other bodies since 2002. Progress with the research and the wider programme was reported to an open meeting in Cornwall on 11 March.

Assessments of the likely impacts of Phytophthora ramorum have been carried out through specific UK and EU pest risk analyses and through an impact assessment which supported the business case for the DEFRA Phytophthora Disease Management Programme. Additional economic research aims to refine economic impact assessments by better determining the values of the habitats at risk (woodlands, heathland, heritage gardens).

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she is taking steps to counter the spread of sudden oak death in trees in Richmond Park. [45220]

**Mr Paice:** We are taking the spread of sudden oak death (Phytophthora ramorum) very seriously with a five-year, £25 million Phytophthora Disease Management Programme. Notwithstanding this the disease has not been found in Richmond park. Research and findings to date show that the areas most at risk are in the south-west and west of the country.

### Plastics: Recycling

**Yasmin Qureshi:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will estimate the amount of plastic waste which was recycled in 2009-10. [47052]

**Richard Benyon:** DEFRA does not hold a figure for the overall plastic recycled in 2009-10. However, a report from the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) "Realising the value of recovered plastic—an update" (spring 2010) estimates that around 4.5 million tonnes of plastics enters the UK waste stream each year. In 2009, it is estimated that around 900,000 tonnes of this material was recovered for recycling.

### Refrigerators: Waste Disposal

**Tristram Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to reduce the number of supermarket refrigeration display cabinets disposed of in landfill sites. [46140]

**Richard Benyon:** The disposal of refrigerating display cabinets in the UK is controlled by the following regulations:

> The EC regulations on substances that deplete the ozone layer require ozone-depleting substances to be removed from commercial refrigeration equipment before it is disposed of.
>
> The UK waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) regulations encourage the separate collection of WEEE, including refrigerating display cabinets, establish minimum treatment standards and set minimum recovery and recycling targets.

The UK Government are also promoting the reuse of WEEE by providing financial and other support for the development of a publicly available specification on the "Reuse of used and waste electrical and electronic equipment—process management specification" (PAS 141).

### Veterinary Services: Finance

**Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the budget of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate *(a)* was in each of the last five years and *(b)* will be in each of the next four years; [46769]

(2) what the budget of the Veterinary Laboratories Agency *(a)* was in each of the last five years and *(b)* will be in each of the next four years. [46770]

**Mr Paice:** The budgets of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) for the years requested are set out in the following table.

|  |  | *£ million* |
|---|---|---|
|  | *VMD* | *VLA* |
| 2006-07 actual | 3.3 | 100.3 |
| 2007-08 actual | 3.3 | 101.0 |
| 2008-09 actual | 3.5 | 96.2 |
| 2009-10 actual | 3.7 | 95.7 |
| 2011-11 forecast outturn | 3.4 | 74.5 |
| 2011-12 budget | 3.2 | 72.4 |

Figures for the four subsequent years are not yet finalised and will be allocated on an annual basis.

### Water Abstraction

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which rivers are being investigated under the Environment Agency's Restoring Sustainable Abstraction Scheme; and in respect of which rivers *(a)* preliminary investigations have been completed and restoration solutions have been recommended and *(b)* preliminary investigations are ongoing. [46352]

**Richard Benyon:** The Environment Agency has 226 ongoing investigations under the Restoring Sustainable Abstraction Programme, covering rivers and wetlands. Investigations have been completed and restoration solutions recommended for 85 schemes.

Since 2008, 321 schemes have been completed, and action has been taken to deliver environmental improvements for 143 of these. The remaining 178 schemes required no further action.

Details of the number of investigations by river are not collated by the Environment Agency and to source the information would involve disproportionate cost. The Environment Agency is also unable to release into the public domain information that could identify individual abstractions or licence holders for reasons of confidentiality.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Bahrain: Politics and Government

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Bahraini counterpart; and if he will make a statement. [45324]

**Mr Hague:** I spoke to the Bahraini Foreign Minister on 16 March to express serious concern at the deteriorating situation on the ground and to call for restraint from all sides following the declaration of a state of emergency in Bahrain.

I stressed that it was vital that all security forces in the country exercised restraint, used minimum force and worked to create the conditions for dialogue.

I encouraged him to return to the process of political dialogue as, even at this stage, it presented the way out of the current crisis.

In addition to this the Prime Minister spoke to the King of Bahrain on 15 March warning against the use of force and encouraging dialogue.

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has discussed with his counterpart in Bahrain the implications of the deployment in that country of military forces under the auspices of the Gulf Co-operation Council. [47909]

**Alistair Burt:** The intervention by Gulf countries must be consistent with a response through reform, not through repression, and help create an environment in which dialogue can take place. We call on all security forces in the country to exercise the utmost restraint and to avoid using unnecessary force. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) stressed this point when he spoke to the Bahraini Foreign Minister, H. E. Shaikh Khalid Bin Ahmed Bin Mohamed on 16 March. He also urged the need for genuine political reform.

### BBC World Service

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the 648 kHz medium radio wave frequency has been allocated to a body other than the BBC. [46826]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** The BBC World Service is still operating the 648 kHz frequency. They have said that they will be relinquishing the frequency at the end of March.

Frequency allocation is the responsibility of Ofcom. They have said that there will be a public consultation exercise before re-allocation of the frequency.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate has been made of the financial saving to be achieved by the BBC World Service ceasing transmission on the 648 kHz medium radio wave frequency; and what proportion of the total planned budget reduction for the BBC World Service this amount represents. [46827]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** The BBC World Service estimates that the cessation of broadcasts on the 648 kHz MW frequency at the end of this month will save it approximately £260,000 per annum. This represents around 2.6% of the approximately £10 million annual savings the World Service plans to make in its distribution budget by the end of the first three years of the spending review period, and around 0.6% of the £46 million per annum of savings in its overall operating budget over the same period. At the end of this period the BBC World Service will be funded from the television licence fee.

### British Overseas Territories

**Rehman Chishti:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent consideration he has given to the recommendations of the Seventh Report of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Session 2007-08, HC 147, on the Overseas Territories, in respect of the Government's oversight responsibility for the Overseas Territories. [48008]

**Mr Bellingham:** The Government take their oversight responsibility for the Overseas Territories very seriously.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, updated the House on our approach to the Overseas Territories in a written ministerial statement on 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 76WS.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on *(a)* salaries and *(b)* pension entitlements for special advisers in the financial year 2010-11 to date. [46578]

**Alistair Burt:** I refer the hon. Member to the Cabinet Office website which reports details of special advisers employed on a quarterly basis:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

The estimated pay bill includes pension costs.

Appointment as a special adviser is pensionable under the civil service pension arrangements. Special advisers have a choice of pension arrangements, which are set out in the Model contract for special advisers:

Nuvos—a defined benefit occupational pension scheme that currently has a 3.5% member contribution rate. Employer contribution rates from 1 April 2010 range from 16.7% of pay for those earning under £21,000 a year, to 24.3% for those earning more than £74,000 a year.

A partnership pension account—this is a stakeholder pension with an employer contribution based on age.

### Departmental Public Bodies

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10WS, on the public bodies reform programme, what estimate he has made of the savings to his Department net of costs incurred of the assumption of additional departmental responsibilities to accrue from *(a)* the abolition of three public bodies within his Department's area of responsibility and *(b)* the change in function of two such bodies. [48139]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** On 16 March 2011 the Minister for the Cabinet Office issued a written ministerial statement updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that Departments estimate cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

I anticipate net overall administrative savings from structural reforms to the Foreign and Commonwealth public bodies over the spending review period of £30,000. Overall administrative reductions from reform of all Foreign and Commonwealth departmental public bodies are estimated to be £275,000 over the spending review period.

### Diplomatic Service: British Nationals Abroad

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to improve consular services for UK citizens overseas. [46612]

**Mr Jeremy Browne** *[holding answer 16 March 2011]*: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) received over 1.9 million consular inquiries in 2009-10. We dealt with almost 20,000 serious consular assistance cases, including approximately 6,000 deaths and 6,000 detentions of British nationals. In addition, we respond to major crises; and issue replacement travel documents to British nationals whose passport is lost, stolen or otherwise unavailable and they need to travel urgently.

We continually review our consular services to ensure that they are the best we can provide: focused on providing assistance to the most vulnerable as efficiently as possible and building working relationships with partners where they are able to provide services that the FCO cannot.

On 16 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 121WS, I announced that the Government would restore Exceptional Assistance Measures for all British nationals affected by a terrorist attack overseas, regardless of whether or not they have travel insurance.

We have enhanced our support to British nationals involved in international parental child abduction to bring UK court orders to the attention of local authorities and to lobby to lift travel restrictions where there is an imminent risk of harm to the child.

Since 1 November 2010 we have been working with Victim Support National Homicide Service to provide support to bereaved people living in England and Wales following a murder or manslaughter overseas. We are currently working on further enhancements to the support we can provide to victims of murder and manslaughter overseas, as I informed members during a Westminster Hall debate on 3 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 285-92WH. We will announce any significant changes to the House, and incorporate them into our publication 'Support for British nationals abroad: A Guide'.

In respect of crisis responses, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs announced on 23 February 2011 that he would establish a review, directly reporting to Ministers, into the FCO's arrangements for the evacuation of British nationals in a crisis.

### Egypt: Politics and Government

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of political movements in Egypt; what recent discussions he has had with the Government of *(a)* Israel, *(b)* Jordan and *(c)* Egypt on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [R] [47682]

**Alistair Burt:** In the past there has not been the political space in Egypt for a strong democratic opposition to be able to develop. We believe that it is important that the political reform process in Egypt includes representatives from every part of society. Before parliamentary elections are held in Egypt, opposition groups will need time to coalesce and form their respective platforms.

During my visit to Egypt from 9 to 11 March, I met the Prime Minister and other members of the Government, and encouraged them to work out a public timetable for elections to allow for the development of effective political parties. A key first step to this action will be a new law on political parties. We understand that the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces will issue such a law shortly after the referendum on constitutional reforms. We will continue to urge the Egyptian Government to engage in meaningful dialogue with opposition and activist groups to build trust with them so as to enable the aspirations of the people to be realised.

The Prime Minister last spoke to King Abdullah of Jordan on 17 March, when they discussed various regional events. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the Secretary of State for Defence met with Defence Minister Barak when he visited London on 17 March 2011 and discussed a number of regional issues, including Egypt. Egypt has played an important role in the middle east peace process and its peace agreement with Israel is vital to regional stability.

### Former Ministers

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guidelines his Department has put in place in respect of the provision of briefings to former Ministers. [44154]

**Alistair Burt:** Briefing is provided in accordance with the guidance set out in Volume 2 of the Directory of Civil Service Guidance, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

### Iran: Politics and Government

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of reports of pro-democracy protests in Iran; what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the government of Israel, *(b)* the Arab League, *(c)* his EU counterparts and *(d)* the United Nations Secretary General on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [R] [47667]

**Alistair Burt:** In the past month, the Iranian authorities have done everything they can to try to suppress the first series of protests to take place in Iran since December 2009. They have beaten protesters and arrested hundreds—while claiming to support freedom elsewhere in the Middle East. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and I have issued statements about this outrageous hypocrisy and made clear our concern about the suppression of these legitimate protests. While we have not discussed these protests with the Government of Israel, the Arab League or the UN Secretary-General, we have had discussions with EU partners and the G8.

### Iran: Terrorism

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on Iranian involvement with Islamist militants; what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the government of Israel, *(b)* the Palestinian Authority, *(c)* the government of Egypt, *(d)* the government of Jordan, *(e)* his EU counterparts, *(f)* the Arab League and *(g)* the United Nations Secretary General on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [47697]

**Alistair Burt:** We continue to monitor closely Iranian support to Hezbollah, Hamas, Palestinian rejectionist groups and Iraqi militia groups. We are gravely concerned by the latest evidence that Iran continues to supply the Taliban with weaponry.

We have consistently stressed the negative impact this behaviour has on stability in the region. We regularly discuss this issue with a range of international partners.

### Iraq

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to encourage the Iraqi army to allow *(a)* stationery, *(b)* beds and *(c)* other items into Camp Ashraf since December 2010. [47843]

**Alistair Burt:** The Iraqi Government have confirmed to our embassy officials that food, water and medical supplies are allowed to enter Camp Ashraf. However, we are aware of reports from camp residents that some items have not been permitted in the camp.

Our embassy in Baghdad will continue to urge the Iraqi Government to ensure that the residents of Camp Ashraf are treated in accordance with international humanitarian standards, and will raise concerns where appropriate.

### Israel: Foreign Relations

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to strengthen links with Israel; what steps he plans to take on this matter in the next six months; and if he will make a statement. [R] [47686]

**Alistair Burt:** Israel is an important strategic partner for the UK. We have regular dialogue at both ministerial and official level on a wide range of issues, including the situation in the region, the middle east peace process and our ongoing cooperation on Iran.

I visited Israel and the Occupied Territories in January 2011 and met Foreign Minister Lieberman. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs also visited in November 2011. Defence Secretary Barak met with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of State for Defence, when he visited London on 17 March 2011.

We are confirming dates for the forthcoming UK-Israel Strategic dialogue which is an opportunity for high level discussions on a wide range of foreign policy issues.

### Ivory Coast: Armed Conflict

**Stephen Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on the role of the United Nations in protecting civilians in Côte d'Ivoire. [47995]

**Mr Bellingham:** The violence that has led to the deaths of civilians in Cote d'Ivoire is unacceptable and I urge all sides to exercise restraint. The Government are in regular contact with the UN and international partners about the ongoing crisis in Cote d'Ivoire, including on the protection of civilians. The UN must be allowed to fulfil its mandate to investigate human rights abuses without hindrance. Through our diplomatic representation in Abidjan, we are in regular contact with UN Special Representative Choi, while our missions at the UN in New York and Geneva are working closely with UN colleagues there to find a peaceful resolution to the crisis. We support the proposal by the UN Commission on Human Rights to send a Commission of Inquiry to Cote d'Ivoire to investigate violence and abuses committed since the elections in November 2010. We are also in contact with President Ouattara and his Ministers and will continue to urge them to ensure forces loyal to them refrain from violence.

### Japan: Tsunami

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his Department was contacted by International Rescue Corps about the provision of support in Japan following the recent tsunami. [47969]

**Mr Hague:** The International Rescue Corps (IRC) first directly contacted the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) after their arrival at Tokyo Haneda airport on 15 March when they approached British embassy representatives there. The IRC had previously been in contact with the Department for International Development, who had informed the FCO of IRC's intention to provide assistance.

On the evening of 15 March 2011, the IRC told our embassy in Tokyo that it needed a letter of support for an expressway pass. The embassy faxed this letter, as a note verbale, to the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs at approximately 07:00 on 16 March 2011, and followed up with phone calls to the Ministry.

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to which British aid organisations he has *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused permission to work in Japan since the tsunami. [47970]

**Mr Hague:** None. It is not for me to grant or refuse permission for British aid organisations to work in Japan. The Japanese Government rightly takes all decisions on the large number of offers of assistance that it has received.

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what occasions International Rescue Corps has been approved by his Department to work in disaster areas. [47972]

**Mr Hague:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is not the lead Department in this area of work. Since 2008, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), co-operating with the Department for International Development, has invited non-governmental organisations to become part of the UK international search and rescue group, members of which can be invited to participate in missions when required.

### Lebanon: Capital Punishment

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1041W on Lebanon: capital punishment, what information he has received on the fate of each individual sentenced to death for Israeli related spying activities; if he will make representations to the Government of Lebanon on each individual; and if he will make a statement. [47604]

**Alistair Burt:** I understand that the seven Lebanese citizens sentenced to death on charges of spying for the Government of Israel are likely to have been held by the Ministry of Defence prior to appearing before a military court. Following sentencing, prisoners are usually transferred to the civilian Roumieh prison. The Lebanese have not carried out a death sentence since 2004.

Our ambassador in Beirut has raised the issue of Lebanon's continued use of the death penalty on a number of occasions, including with the Minister of Justice, Chief of Justice and Head of the Lebanese Bar Association.

### Lebanon: Politics and Government

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the situation in Lebanon; what recent discussions he has had with the government of Israel on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [47695]

**Alistair Burt:** Najib Mikati was asked by President Sleiman to form the next Government following the withdrawal of the opposition from the Government National of Unity on 12 January 2011. Discussions between Najib Mikati and senior Lebanese politicians are continuing.

We want to see a Government formed in accordance with Lebanon's constitution, which commands the broadest possible support of the people of Lebanon and upholds its international obligations including the Special Tribunal and an end to impunity for assassinations. It is important that any new Government are committed to restraint and the principle of non-violence as well as a sovereign and independent future for Lebanon.

We have regular discussions with the Government of Israel on the situation in the region and they are aware of our views on Lebanon.

### Libya: British Nationals Abroad

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British nationals who indicated a willingness to leave Libya on flights chartered by his Department have not taken up places on such flights to date. [43888]

**Alistair Burt:** The Department evacuated all those who wanted to leave on Foreign and Commonwealth Office chartered flights between 23 and 28 February 2011. We are aware of around 220 British nationals remaining in Libya following the UK's evacuation. Of these, 100 have told us they wish to remain in Libya. Of the others, nearly 70 have told us that they may decide to leave at some point. We continue to work with those who have contacted us for help in order to identify options for them to leave Libya.

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 841W, on Libya: British nationals abroad, whether he plans to publish the report of the review of his Department's arrangements for leading the evacuation of British nationals in a crisis. [47578]

**Mr Hague** *[holding answer 18 March 2011]*: Yes.

### Libya: Politics and Government

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's position is on the desertion of Libyan air force personnel to other countries. [47760]

**Mr Hague:** The refusal by members of Gaddafi's own air force to commit human rights violations against the Libyan people on behalf of his regime is a further demonstration of the increasing pressure his regime is coming under, including from inside Libya. Gaddafi has lost all legitimacy to rule and must put an immediate stop to the use of armed force against civilians and hand over power without delay to a government that will recognise the aspirations of the Libyan people and be more representative and accountable.

We continue to work closely with international partners to isolate the Gaddafi regime and to ensure that anyone responsible for abuses or contemplating further crimes knows that they will be held to account.

**Frank Dobson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the civilian operation to evacuate UK nationals from Libya. [47997]

**Alistair Burt:** To date, the provisional total cost to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the civilian operation to evacuate UK nationals from Libya is around £1.8 million, but this figure will not be confirmed until all final invoices are received.

### Lydia Hunt

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress he is making with the Mexican authorities in the investigation into the abduction of Lydia Hunt. [47332]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** We are in regular contact with the Mexican authorities about this case. I have raised it with Mexican Ministers and the Mexican ambassador to the UK. Our ambassador to Mexico has also raised it at senior level. We cannot interfere in the Mexican investigation into Lydia Hunt's abduction, but hope for progress soon.

### Former Ministers

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what briefings his Department has given to former Ministers in the last six months; which department conducted the briefings; and what the payband was of each official involved. [43985]

**Alistair Burt:** Briefing is provided in accordance with the guidance set out in Volume 2 of the Directory of Civil Service Guidance, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

### Middle East: Peace Negotiations

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the state of the Middle East peace process; what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Government of Israel, *(b)* the Government of Egypt, *(c)* the Government of Jordan, *(d)* his EU counterparts and *(e)* the United Nations Secretary General on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [R] [47684]

**Alistair Burt:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), gave to the hon. Member for Leeds West (Rachel Reeves) on 15 Mar 2011, *Official Report*, column 148.

UK Ministers and officials regularly discuss the middle east peace process with counterparts in Israel, Egypt, Jordan and the UN. We are in regular contact with our colleagues in the EU. There was EU unity in the UK, France, Germany, and Portugal's, vote in favour of the UN Security Council Resolution on settlements on 18 February 2011. The E3 has called for an urgent return to negotiations, to resolve all final status issues, based on clear parameters.

The Secretary of State and the Secretary of State for Defence met with Defence Minister Barak when he visited London on 17 March 2011 and discussed the peace process and developments across the middle east.

The Prime Minister last spoke to King Abdullah of Jordan on 17 March 2011. They discussed a number of regional issues. I visited Egypt between 9-11 March 2011 and discussed the middle east peace process with Foreign Minister Nabil al-Arabi. Mr al-Arabi reiterated that Egypt would stand by its international commitments and we believe that this is a positive sign of Egypt's continued commitment to peace with Israel.

### Morocco: Politics and Government

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the situation in Morocco; and if he will make a statement. [47561]

**Mr Hague:** There have been a number of small scale demonstrations in Morocco over recent weeks. We welcome the recent announcement by HM King Mohammed VI of planned constitutional reform and look forward to its implementation.

### Muammar Gaddafi

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1044W, on Muammar al-Gaddafi, whether he has received representations from the government of Venezuela on his comments that Colonel Gaddafi had travelled to that country. [47579]

**Mr Hague** *[holding answer 18 March 2011]:* Our embassy in Venezuela is in frequent contact with the Venezuelan Government on a range of issues.

### Overtime

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on overtime for staff working in the private office of the Secretary of State in each of the last five years. [43938]

**Alistair Burt:** In financial year 2009-10 staff in the Secretary of State's office claimed a total of £63,816 in overtime and travel time. Due to the way these payments are recorded it is not possible to provide a breakdown of the two amounts.

Due to changes in the IT system in which this information is recorded, it is not possible to provide figures for the preceding years without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Pakistan: Christianity

**Andrew Bridgen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Pakistan on the treatment of Christians in that country. [48012]

**Alistair Burt:** I raised religious freedoms, including the treatment of Christians in Pakistan, with Pakistan's former Minister for Minorities Mr. Shahbaz Bhatti in January this year. My noble Friend Lady Warsi also raised these issues with the Speaker of the Pakistan Parliament on 17 January 2011. Following Mr Bhatti's murder, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister wrote to express his condolences to President Zardari. I made a statement condemning his killing, alongside my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and my noble Friend Lady Warsi. We will continue to engage with the authorities in Pakistan on this issue.

### Palestinians: Economic Situation

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the economic situation in the Palestinian Territories; what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the government of Israel, *(b)* the Palestinian Authority, *(c)* the government of Egypt, *(d)* the government of Jordan, *(e)* his EU counterparts and *(f)* the United Nations Secretary General on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [47688]

**Alistair Burt:** According to International Monetary Fund figures, economic growth across the Palestinian Territories was 6.8% in 2009. The west bank's economy grew at 7.2% in 2009; however, much of this growth was derived from higher Government spending and international aid rather than from exports, which fell in that period. The west bank's economy continues to be constrained by a number of factors, including movement and access constraints on goods and people, and poor investment confidence.

Gaza's economy grew at 5.4% in 2009 from a very low base after the damage incurred in Operation Cast Lead. We are concerned that Israeli access restrictions continue to stifle sustainable economic recovery in Gaza, and we look forward to the full implementation of Israel's commitments to allow Gazan exports to international markets, and to increase the flows of goods into the territory.

UK Ministers and officials regularly discuss the economic situation in the Palestinian Territories with the Palestinian Authority, Israel, regional countries, UN agencies, other donor countries and organisations.

### Somalia: Piracy

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the potential effects of Somali piracy on UK oil supplies. [47289]

**Mr Bellingham:** The UK imports small quantities of oil from the Persian Gulf, so physical supplies are not directly affected by the problem of piracy off the Somali coast. However, the phenomenon is a concern because the undisrupted supply of Gulf oil to global markets helps to ensure stable oil prices, including for UK consumers. The UK imports increasing volumes of liquefied natural gas from the Gulf, which uses the same maritime routes, and UK-flagged vessels and their crews are vulnerable to the threat of piracy.

### Swaziland: Politics and Government

**Stephen Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on the Commonwealth's role in the promotion of democratisation in the Kingdom of Swaziland. [48088]

**Mr Bellingham:** The Government are concerned at the human rights and governance situation in Swaziland, including restrictions on political parties, trade union rights, freedom of association, independence of the judicial and penal systems, gender equality and, most recently, application of the Suppression of Terrorism Act and violence perpetrated by state actors, including harm wrought against those in detention. We discuss these issues, in robust terms, with the Government of Swaziland. Our non-resident high commissioner, with her EU colleagues, met with King Mswati III on 10 March 2011, during which human rights and governance issues were raised. We also work with a range of international partners to encourage the Government of Swaziland to address these concerns. In particular, we welcome the Commonwealth's engagement over the last few years, including its observation mission for the 2008 elections, and its current work to support the drafting of the enabling legislation for the new Human Rights Council.

### Yemen: Politics and Government

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has *(a)* made and *(b)* received representations on reports of deportations of UK journalists from Yemen on 14 March 2011. [47908]

**Alistair Burt:** Our embassy in Sana'a was informed on 14 March 2011 that two British nationals, working as journalists, had been detained in Yemen. Our embassy in Sana'a maintained contact with them and pressed the Yemeni Government for consular access. These individuals along with nationals from another country were taken into custody and subsequently deported from Yemen having contravened the conditions of their visas. In a press release on 16 March 2011 the embassy of the Republic of Yemen in London announced that several journalists had been detained and deported for working as journalists whilst on student or tourist visas.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Departmental Public Bodies

**Tessa Jowell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 March 2011, *Official Report,* columns 9-10WS, on the public bodies reform programme, what estimate he has made of the savings to his Department net of costs incurred in the assumption of additional departmental responsibilities to accrue from *(a)* the abolition of 16 public bodies within his Department's area of responsibility and *(b)* the change in function of the Homes and Communities Agency. [48137]

**Grant Shapps:** On 16 March 2011 the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, issued a written ministerial statement updating Parliament on progress on public bodies' reform. That statement also announced that Departments estimate cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

The Department for Communities and Local Government is not absorbing any functions from the arm's length bodies being closed or reformed. Details of the estimated savings in the administrative budgets of individual Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) arm's length bodies were published on the DCLG website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/newsroom/1865652

Although technically not an arm's length body, most of the functions of the Government Office Network have been discontinued: a limited number of functions have been transferred to Departments, including this Department.

### Housing Benefit

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the proportion of properties in the central London broad rental market area that will be charging rents equal to or less than the relevant maximum level of local housing allowance following introduction of the new limits on that allowance for houses with each number of bedrooms. [43836]

**Steve Webb:** I have been asked to reply.

Table 9 in our publication 'Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12':

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/impacts-of-hb-proposals.pdf

sets out the proportion of private rented sector (PRS) accommodation by broad rental market area (BRMA) that is expected to fall under the new local housing allowance (LHA) limits. These limits are based on the 30th percentile rent of properties in the PRS, with absolute caps applied to control housing benefit expenditure.

### Infrastructure: Planning

**Peter Aldous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to increase the efficiency of the planning process for large infrastructure projects. [48091]

**Greg Clark:** I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement on 10 March 2011, *Official Report,* columns 72-73WS.

### Jephson Housing Association Group: Expenditure

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much money Jephson Housing Association Group has received from the public purse in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* each of the last three years. [48132]

**Grant Shapps:** The following table shows the total amount paid to Jephson Housing Association Group through the Homes and Communities Agency's National Affordable Housing Programme for each year from 2007-08. The figures for 2010-11 are up to the end of February.

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 7.8 |
| 2008-09 | 16.9 |
| 2009-10 | 17.1 |
| 2010-11[1] | 10.6 |

[1] Figures are to the end of February 2011.

*Source:*
Homes and Communities Agency

### Social Rented Housing: Peterborough

**Mr Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new *(a)* social rented and *(b)* intermediate tenure properties have been completed in Peterborough constituency in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [47877]

**Andrew Stunell:** Official statistics on the number of social rent, intermediate rent and low cost home ownership completions in each local authority in England are available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/affordablehousingsupply/

These figures include new build completions and acquisitions to the affordable housing tenure.

## TREASURY

### Aggregates Levy

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue accrued from the aggregates levy in each of the last four financial years. [47834]

**Justine Greening:** Revenue accrued from the aggregates levy can be found on the UK Trade Information website at:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bullaggr

### Departmental Compensation

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Revenue and Customs has spent on payments to compensate members of the public for errors made in the processing of individual cases in each of the last five years. [47381]

**Mr Gauke:** It is not possible to distinguish payments made to individual customers from those made to businesses. However, total payments made under HMRC's ex-gratia financial redress policy for 2005-06; 2006-07; 2007-08; and 2008-09 are contained in the HMRC annual reports. For 2009-10 the payments made totalled £3.74 million, including a single, exceptional payment of £1.2 million.

The information is available from the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr Raab:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse was of the *(a)* procurement and *(b)* outsourcing function of (i) his Department and (ii) each (A) agency, (B) non-departmental public body and (C) non-ministerial Department for which he is responsible in the last financial year for which figures are available. [43957]

**Justine Greening:** The cost of the procurement and outsourcing functions (where there is a separate outsourcing function) for the financial year 2009-10 are:

| *Organisation* | *Type* | *Cost of procurement function in 2009-10* | *Cost of outsourcing function* |
|---|---|---|---|
| HM Treasury Group | Government Department Group includes Debt Management Office, Asset Protection Agency and Office of Government Commerce | £765,468 | [1]— |
| National Savings & Investment | Executive agency | £261,828 | £935,072 |
| Royal Mint Advisory Committee | NDPB | No independent procurement function | [1]— |
| HMRC | Non-ministerial Department | £13,366,777 | [1]— |
| Valuation Office Agency | Executive agency of HMRC | £73,000 approximately (2010-11). Function did not exist in 2009-10. | [1]— |
| Government Actuaries Department | Non-ministerial Department | GAD does not have a designated procurement function. They have a small number of officers who are involved in various areas of purchasing at a total of £35,000 per annum. | [1]— |

[1] No outsourcing function.

### Excise Duties: Beer

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of recent trends in the level of beer duty on the consumption of beer *(a)* in public houses and *(b)* in general in the UK. [48057]

**Justine Greening:** HMRC has conducted some research into the impact of price changes on alcohol consumption. From changes in duty rates the effect on prices can be estimated and, from this, the change in consumption. HMRC estimate that a 1% increase in prices results in a 0.77% decrease in the consumption of beer in on-licensed premises such as public houses and restaurants.

HMRC also estimates that a 1% increase in prices results in a 1.11% reduction in sales in the off-licensed trade.

These results are published in the technical paper:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/alcohol-consumption-uk.pdf

### Fuels: Prices

**Andrew George:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will extend to liquid petroleum gas his proposal for a pilot discount on petrol and diesel in the Inner and Outer Hebrides, the Northern Isles and the Isles of Scilly. [47297]

**Justine Greening:** Liquefied petroleum gas for road use is a fuel type with an existing UK-wide duty discount. The Government intend to submit a formal proposal to the European Commission for a pilot scheme that will deliver a maximum of 5p per litre duty discount on petrol and diesel in remote rural areas.

**Charlie Elphicke:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the downstream oil industry since January 2011 on proposals to introduce a fuel price stabiliser mechanism; and if he will make a statement; [47319]

(2) if he will assess for benchmarking purposes the effects of the introduction of the French fuel stabilising price mechanism introduced in 2000. [47518]

**Justine Greening:** The Government routinely discuss tax matters with industry stakeholders and assesses a range of factors. The Chancellor keeps all taxes under review along Budget timelines.

### Public Sector Pay

**Christopher Pincher:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer from what date the flat pay rise of £250 for public sector workers earning less than £21,000 per year *(a)* was paid in 2010-11 and *(b)* will be paid in 2011-12. [45585]

**Danny Alexander:** The June Budget announced a two-year pay freeze from 2011-12 for public sector workforces, except those earning £21,000 or less, who will receive an increase of at least £250.

The month at which this takes effect will vary according to the existing pay arrangements in each workforce. The pay year currently begins in April for the armed forces, NHS, and Prison Service, and September 2011 for teachers.

Civil service pay, below senior civil service, is delegated to Departments, and they will apply the policy according to their own pay year, which varies among Departments. Pay was frozen in 2010-11 for civil servants in Departments who had not yet agreed a legally binding pay deal, except for those earning £21,000 or less, who will receive at least £250 a year. Those civil servants will then exit the freeze ahead of other groups.

### Rent a Room Scheme

**Mr Brine:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has considered the merits of raising the tax-free gross income threshold for the Rent a Room scheme. [47569]

**Justine Greening:** I refer the hon. Member to the Government's response to the consultation on investment in the private rented sector, available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/investment_in_the_uk_private_rented_sector_response_summary.pdf

### Taxation: Compost

**Mr Brine:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to introduce a levy on retail peat-based composts. [47769]

**Justine Greening:** The Government recognise the environmental benefits of the use of peat-free composting material. We are therefore committed to achieving a full transition to sustainable alternatives to peat as soon as possible, and DEFRA are currently consulting on a range of proposals to achieve this goal.

### VAT: Construction

**Mrs Ellman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the application of value added tax to works connected with the retrofitting of derelict domestic properties. [48126]

**Mr Gauke:** The renovation and alteration of derelict domestic properties is liable to VAT at 5%, so long as the buildings have not been lived in during the two years immediately preceding commencement of the works.

## DEFENCE

### Air Force: Military Bases

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many flying days were lost as a result of *(a)* adverse weather conditions and *(b)* other factors at each RAF station in each of the last five years. [45847]

**Nick Harvey:** The information requested is not held centrally, nor is it held uniformly by all RAF stations. A comprehensive answer could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Available information for entire days of flying lost in the last three years is included in the following table:

*Flying days lost by each RAF station*

| | *2008* | | *2009* | | *2010* | | *2011*[1] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Weather* | *Other* | *Weather* | *Other* | *Weather* | *Other* | *Weather* | *Other* |
| RAF Benson | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| RAF Brize Norton | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| RAF Cranwell | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | 10 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| RAF Leeming | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 33 | 12 | 1 | 0 |
| RAF Leuchars | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| RAF Linton-on-Ouse | 7 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 17 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| RAF Lossiemouth | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| RAF Lyneham | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| RAF Marham | 4 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 15 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| RAF Northolt | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| RAF Odiham | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| RAF Shawbury | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | 0 | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| RAF Valley | 13 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 19 | 11 | 4 | 0 |
| RAF Waddington | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

[1] To 28 February.

[2] Not available.

The figure for RAF Lyneham relates to flying days lost as a result of snow only.

Weather-related reasons which can preclude non-operational flying, include low cloud base and high wind, snow and ice. Certain stations with a key operational role have an enhanced level of snow and ice clearing equipment enabling them to return to flying operations more quickly. Other reasons for lost flying days can include spilt fuel or debris on runways, bird activity, designated flight safety days, air traffic control maintenance and, last year, volcanic activity in Iceland.

### Nuclear Weapons

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* reason for and *(b)* scope is of his Department's collaboration in studies for the development of the US Administration's W88 nuclear warhead. [47136]

**Peter Luff:** Co-operation on a broad range of nuclear issues of mutual interest to the United Kingdom and the United States take place routinely under the auspices of the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement. This includes collaboration with the US on its plans for the refurbishment or replacement of non-nuclear components within their W88 nuclear warhead which could have implications for the UK's consideration of its future warhead options.

As confirmed in the recent Trident Value for Money review, surveys have shown that our current warheads can be supported until the late 2030s and no decision will be required on its potential replacement until the next Parliament.

### Somalia: Piracy

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the average number of Royal Navy ships transiting the Gulf of Aden, the Arabian sea and the Somali Basin in the latest period for which figures are available; [47605]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average number of UK nationals on Royal Navy ships transiting the Gulf of Aden, the Arabian sea and the Somali Basin in the latest period for which figures are available. [47608]

**Nick Harvey:** Between March 2010 and February 2011 there were 11 Royal Navy (RN) (including Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA)) ships that transited the Gulf of Aden, the Arabian sea and the Somali Basin.

Between March 2010 and February 2011 there were approximately 2,000 UK nationals, based on the seagoing complement, on RN ships (including RFA) that transited the Gulf of Aden, the Arabian sea and the Somali Basin.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Census

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of the UK Census held in *(a)* 1981, *(b)* 1991 and *(c)* 2001 at 2011 prices; [46825]

(2) for what reasons other than population growth there has been an increase in the cost to the public purse of administration of the UK Census. [47078]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking: (i) for an estimate of the cost to the public purse of the UK Census held in (a) 1981, (b) 1991 and (c) at 2011-adjusted prices (46825); and (ii) for what reasons other than population growth there has been an increase in the cost to the public purse of administration of the UK Census. (47078)

(i) With respect to the censuses in England and Wales the most recent estimate of costs are:

| *Census* | *Cost (£ million)* | *Cost at 2011 prices (£ million)* | *Population (million)* | *Cost per person per year at 2011 prices (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1981 | 45 | 185 | 48.5 | 0.38 |
| 1991 | 117 | 219 | 49.9 | 0.44 |
| 2001 | 214 | 308 | 52.0 | 0.59 |

(ii) With respect to the 2011 Census in England and Wales, the cost increase compared with 2001 is predominantly due to: the need for developing, evaluating and operating an address register, a questionnaire tracking system, and a secure online questionnaire completion system; the development, testing and processing of a fourth page of questions per person; the additional resources to conduct the follow-up operation in the areas which are hardest to enumerate; and increased contact centre capacity and improved communications. These developments followed the several recommendations of the Treasury Select Committee, the Public Accounts Committee and other bodies following the 2001 Census,

The cost of the census in Scotland and Northern Ireland is the responsibility of the General Register Office for Scotland and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, and is a matter that is devolved to the Scottish Parliament and the Northern Ireland Assembly respectively.

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people *(a)* in England and Wales and *(b)* in Brighton and Hove gave their religion as Jedi in their response to the 2001 Census. [47259]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people (a) in England and Wales and (b) in Brighton and Hove gave their religion as Jedi in their response to the 2001 Census (47259).

The web link provided shows the information requested:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/profiles/rank/jedi.asp

### Departmental Procurement

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many procurement projects with a monetary value greater than *(a)* £10 million, *(b)* £50 million and *(c)* £100 million (i) his Department and (ii) each non-departmental public body and agency for which he is responsible was engaged upon in the latest period for which figures are available; [45547]

(2) which procurement projects engaged upon by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental public body and agency for which he is responsible had a designated senior responsible owner in the latest period for which figures are available; and on what date each such officer was appointed in each such case. [45548]

**Mr Maude:** The Cabinet Office and its non-departmental public bodies are not engaged upon any current procurement projects above the value of £10 million.

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will publish the memorandum of understanding between his Department and *(a)* Serco and *(b)* Capita. [47396]

**Mr Maude:** The requested MOUs contain information which is currently commercially sensitive for both Government and the suppliers in question, and I therefore will not publish them at this time.

### Regulation

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what regulations his Department introduced between 9 February 2011 and 28 February 2011. [46952]

**Mr Maude:** No regulations have been introduced by my Department between 9 February 2011 and 28 February 2011.

### Departmental Relocation

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will bring forward proposals to relocate *(a)* staff and *(b)* offices of Government Departments to East Grinstead; and if he will make a statement. [46131]

**Mr Maude** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* The relocation of Government staff outside of London continues to be considered among other options to deliver the savings set out at the spending review and increase the efficiency of the Government's estate.

It is the Government's property strategy to implement and manage a system of national property controls across the central civil and operational estate as well as setting up property vehicles (PVs) that will make savings through a more co-ordinated approach to property asset management of the central civil office estate. As a first step, the Government Property Unit will set up pilot PVs for the central London and Bristol office estate from 2011-12.

The current spending controls on Government property will result in a reduction in both the cost and size of the estate. To date, the national property controls have produced estate cost reductions of around £50 million. As the estate reduces in size, retained buildings will be utilised more intensively wherever possible. This reduction of property in London and elsewhere could see posts being relocated to areas close to London, and where there is a strong business case, to other parts of the country.

### Departmental Manpower

**Tessa Jowell:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many staff are employed on two year fixed-term contracts in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Civil Service. [46428]

**Mr Maude:** The Cabinet Office uses fixed-term appointments in accordance with the Civil Service Commissioners' Recruitment Principles as part of its resourcing model to fill posts expected to last for a specified period of time. The length of the fixed-term appointment varies depending on the expected length of the role being filled.

The number of staff employed on fixed-term contracts at 28 February 2011 (the latest date available) was 47.

The Cabinet Office does not hold information on the number of staff employed on fixed-term contracts in the civil service and this could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

### Human Resources: Personnel

**Graham Evans:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will assess the merits of sharing human resources personnel between departments for the purpose of making savings to the public purse. [47229]

**Mr Maude:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 27 October 2010, *Official Report,* column 327W.

### Departmental Procurement

**Alun Cairns:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he has set any targets for the *(a)* number and *(b)* monetary value of Crown contracts as a proportion of Government contracts. [46091]

**Mr Maude** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* The Efficiency and Reform Group began a programme of renegotiation with Government's top suppliers in July last year.

The aim of this process was to agree Memoranda of Understanding between the Crown and each supplier, setting out ways in which Departments could realise a range of savings opportunities.

Crown contracts have not been agreed as part of this process.

**Alun Cairns:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to ensure that all Government departments at all levels benefit from the use of Crown contracts. [46092]

**Mr Maude** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* The Cabinet Office is overseeing the implementation of the Memoranda of Understanding agreed between the Crown and Government's top suppliers as part of its centrally-led programme of renegotiation.

Officials have been working closely with central Government Departments to ensure they are able to benefit from the savings opportunities contained within the MoUs.

### Obesity and Anorexia

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths *(a)* in Southend, *(b)* in Essex and *(c)* nationally were attributed to an individual being (i) overweight and (ii) underweight in each year since 2009. [45595]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2001:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths (a) in Southend, (b) in Essex and (c) nationally were attributed to an individual being (i) overweight and (ii) underweight in each year since 2009. (45595)

The terms 'overweight' and 'underweight' are not normally used in the registration of deaths. Consequently, figures can only be provided for deaths recorded using the medically recognised terms 'obesity' and 'malnutrition' or 'effects of hunger'. The number of deaths so recorded is unlikely to be a complete or accurate reflection of the actual numbers of deaths which result, directly or indirectly, from being overweight or underweight.

The tables attached provide the number of deaths where (i) obesity was the underlying cause of death (Table 1), or was mentioned on the death oertificate, either as the underlying cause or as a contributory factor (Table 2), and where (ii) malnutrition was the underlying cause of death (Table 1) or malnutrition or effects of hunger were mentioned on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause or as a contributory factor (Table 2), for (a) Southend-on-Sea unitary authority, (b) Essex county and (c) England and Wales, for 2009 (the latest year available). Data for deaths registered in 2010 will be available in July 2011.

Malnutrition is rarely the underlying cause of death, as people with malnutrition or effects of hunger mentioned on their death certificate often have another serious illness, and it is this illness that is the underlying cause of death. For example they may have cancer of the digestive tract, which means they can't eat properly or can't absorb nutrients; they may have suffered from a stroke or have advanced dementia which can cause difficulties chewing and swallowing; or they may abuse alcohol and so not eat properly.

The number of deaths registered in England and Wales each year by sex, age and cause are published annually on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15096

*Table 1. Number of deaths where obesity or malnutrition was the underlying cause of death, Southend-on-Sea unitary authority, Essex county, and England and Wales, 2009*[1, 2, 3, 4]

*Deaths (persons)*

| *Cause* | *Southend-on-Sea* | *Essex* | *England and Wales* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Obesity | 0 | 10 | 324 |
| Malnutrition | 0 | 1 | 82 |

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes E66 (obesity) and E40-E46 (malnutrition).

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2010.

[3] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered 2009.

*Table 2. Number of deaths where obesity, malnutrition or effects of hunger were mentioned on the death certificate, Southend-on-Sea unitary authority, Essex county, and England and Wales, 2009*[1, 2, 3, 4]

*Deaths (persons)*

| *Cause* | *Southend-on-Sea* | *Essex* | *England and Wales* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Obesity | 2 | 38 | 1,672 |
| Malnutrition or effects of hunger | 2 | 6 | 375 |

*Table 2. Number of deaths where obesity, malnutrition or effects of hunger were mentioned on the death certificate, Southend-on-Sea unitary authority, Essex county, and England and Wales, 2009*[1, 2, 3, 4]

*Deaths (persons)*

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes E66 (obesity), E40-E46 (malnutrition) and T73.0 (effects of hunger). Deaths were included where these causes was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause or as a contributory factor. Effects of hunger can only ever be recorded as a contributory factor. Figures in Table 1 are therefore included in the figures in Table 2.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2010.

[3] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in 2009.

### Public Bodies Bill

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the potential savings to accrue from abolition of the public bodies scheduled for abolition in the Public Bodies Bill; and what method he has used to make this estimate. [47745]

**Mr Maude:** Departments are anticipating that cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

When reductions in programme and capital spend are taken into account, we estimate that total spending through public bodies will be reduced by at least £11 billion per year by 2014-15. If the savings for each year of the spending review are taken into account then a cumulative amount of £30 billion will no longer be spent through public bodies.

These figures are for all public bodies covered in the updated list of reforms published on 16 March 2011, including those in the Public Bodies Bill.

The methodology used was to compare projected spending in 2014-15 against a baseline of 2010-11 spend rolled forward with inflation based on the GDP deflators provided in the Office for Budget Responsibilities' autumn forecast. The methodology is consistent with the spending review.

These figures are a collation of departmental estimates.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Alcoholic Drinks

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on the contents of ministerial drinks cabinets since 12 May 2010. [48354]

**Gregory Barker:** Nothing.

### Carbon Emissions

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to respond to the recommendations of the report by the Committee on Climate Change on the fourth carbon budget. [48125]

**Gregory Barker:** The Climate Change Act 2008 requires Government to set the level of the fourth carbon budget in law not later than 30 June 2011. It also requires Government to lay before Parliament a report setting out proposals and policies for meeting the carbon budget as soon as is reasonably practicable after setting it in law. DECC's Business Plan stipulates this will be in October 2011.

### Cold Weather Payments: Bexley

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people in the weather station area covering the London borough of Bexley received a cold weather payment in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [45449]

**Steve Webb:** I have been asked to reply.

The available information is given in the table.

*Estimated number of benefit units that received at least one cold weather payment for weather stations linked to postcode districts in the London borough of Bexley*

| *Weather station* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
|---|---|---|
| Gravesend | 118,700 | 119,400 |
| Heathrow | 548,600 | 534,500 |

*Notes:*

1. The information provided is management information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case, we only have management information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National Statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, figures given are estimates. Actuals are not available. Estimates for 2010-11 may be revised after the end of the cold weather payment season, but will still be estimates not actuals.
2. A cold weather payment is made to an eligible customer when the average temperature has been recorded as, or is forecast to be, 0° C or below over seven consecutive days at the weather station linked to the customer's postcode. (When the temperature criterion is met, the weather station is said to trigger.)
3. Each of Gravesend and Heathrow weather stations is linked both to an area within the London borough of Bexley and also to an area outside the London borough of Bexley. Estimated numbers given are for the weather station as a whole, not for the part of the London borough of Bexley linked to the weather station.
4. Estimates of potential qualifiers for each weather station for 2010-11 were made at the beginning of the winter. Both Gravesend and Heathrow weather stations have already triggered this winter, so the estimated number of benefit units that received at least one cold weather payment in 2010-11 will not change during the rest of the winter. The estimates for 2010-11 may be revised once the national out-turn for the winter is known.
5. Cold weather payments are made to benefit units. A benefit unit can be a single person or a couple and can include children.
6. Some benefit units received more than one payment in a year.
7. Estimated numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100.

*Sources:*

Postcode districts in the London borough of Bexley: analysis of National Statistics Postcode Directory.

Postcode district to weather station links: Department for Work and Pensions records.

Records of triggers and estimates of potential qualifiers by weather station: Department for Work and Pensions records.

### Regulation

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what regulations his Department introduced between 9 and 28 February 2011. [47041]

**Gregory Barker:** No statutory instruments made by the Department came into force between 9 and 28 February 2011.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what regulations his Department revoked between 9 to 28 February 2011. [47056]

**Gregory Barker:** From 9 to 28 February 2011, the Department has not revoked any statutory instruments in full.

However, the Energy Bill, introduced into the House of Lords on 8 December 2010, sets out proposals to repeal the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) in England, Scotland and Wales. This will reduce regulatory burdens, support the Government's localism agenda and remove redundant legislation from the statute book.

DECC is committed to reducing the burden of regulation on UK business, and a series of internal and external exercises have been or are being conducted towards this aim. For example, in June 2010 my noble Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, responsible for the Department's regulatory agenda, wrote to 250 of the Department's key stakeholders asking for their views on ways to reduce DECC's regulatory burden. The response letter from Lord Marland and a summary of responses to this exercise was published in November 2010 on the DECC internet site:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/about/better_reg/better_reg.aspx

Following on from this exercise, DECC plans to repeal a number of statutory instruments as well as powers under primary legislation (in total, 28 repeals). The exact processes for making the repeals are still being explored (suitable vehicles for the repeals are being considered, and consultation with relevant parties such as the devolved Administrations needs to take place for certain policies).

### Electricity: Meters

**Kate Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with *(a)* the European Commission and *(b)* his EU counterparts on progress on the cost-benefit analysis on the implementation of smart metering. [47636]

**Charles Hendry:** The Department has published detailed impact assessments of smart metering, most recently in July 2010. These assessments are readily available to the European Commission and other member states, although I have not had discussions with the European Commission or my EU counterparts about them. The 3rd Package electricity and gas directives require member states to ensure the implementation of intelligent metering systems. This implementation may be subject to economic assessment, which, if undertaken, should take place by 3 September 2012.

### Feed-in Tariffs

**Sheryll Murray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will ensure that projects in receipt of funding or in development under the feed-in tariff are not subject to any changes in the level of support they receive arising from the outcome of the feed-in tariff review. [47907]

**Gregory Barker:** We have always said there is no intentions to act retrospectively. The proposed changes to the scheme recently announced in the consultation on the fast-track review of the FITs scheme, and any changes that arise from the comprehensive review will only apply to new entrants into the scheme.

The consultation on the fast track review proposals seeks views on timing and implementation.

### Fuel Oil: Prices

**Dr Wollaston:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) if he will bring forward proposals to regulate the price of heating oil *(a)* for rural communities and *(b)* in general; [47802]

(2) if he will consider the merits of introducing a domestic heating oil price stabiliser for rural communities. [47803]

**Charles Hendry:** The OFT has launched its market study into the off-grid energy market, particularly with regards to heating oil and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). The study will cover both consumer and competition issues. It will look at the market's structure and the choice of suppliers, whether competition is working well for consumers, and contractual terms and fairness in supply agreements. The OFT expects to publish the study in October 2011; its findings and conclusions will help to determine whether any changes are needed to the off-grid energy market.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Democratic Republic of Congo: Overseas Aid

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to assist with *(a)* capacity-building, *(b)* governance, *(c)* civil society and *(d)* conflict resolution in the Democratic Republic of Congo in advance of the parliamentary and presidential elections scheduled for later in 2011. [47344]

**Mr O'Brien:** Our support to the Democratic Republic of Congo elections is focused on the following areas: building the capacity of the new electoral commission; improving public understanding of the electoral process, particularly among women and first-time voters; helping the Congolese police to keep the peace before, during and after elections; promoting open debate in advance of elections through support for independent Congolese media; and funding Congolese civil society organisations working on elections-related issues through our civic education and civil society support programmes.

### Departmental Hospitality

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on the contents of ministerial drinks cabinets since 12 May 2010. [48396]

**Mr Duncan:** None.

### Departmental Plants

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on indoor and outdoor plants and trees since his appointment. [48419]

**Mr Duncan:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has not purchased any indoor or outdoor plants or trees since May 2010. A contract for the maintenance of internal plants, at a cost of £586 per month, was terminated at the end of June 2010 and has not been replaced.

### Developing Countries: Natural Disasters

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department takes to *(a)* retain and *(b)* disseminate more widely the information it holds on natural resources in developing countries. [47384]

**Mr O'Brien:** The Department for International Development (DFID) sometimes gathers and retains information on natural resources as part of the design and support of programmes for management of natural resources in developing countries. Data on DFID programmes is placed on the DFID website.

DFID supports developing countries to evaluate their own natural resources and make this information publicly available. For example in Sierra Leone DFID is supporting establishment of an independent National Minerals Agency. As part of the EU Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan we help developing countries shed light on the problem of illegal logging and support them to publicly disclose information on related forest trade, policies and revenues. Last year we transferred to digital format the complete inventory of the Bangladesh Sunderban mangrove forest and disseminated this to a wide range of bodies in Bangladesh, including the Government. We also lodged copies of the information with selected UK universities.

### Developing Countries: Remittances

**Ms Harman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what information his Department holds on *(a)* the countries that are recipients of remittances from people in the UK, *(b)* the monetary value of remittances from the UK to each country and *(c)* the number of people who send remittances abroad; [48047]

(2) what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the (i) income levels of people who send remittances from the UK and (ii) proportion of individuals' incomes that comprise remittances. [48048]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Department for International Development (DFID) relies on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) for data on UK transfers. The ONS does not publish separate estimates for remittances as they are not considered to be of sufficient quality. Instead, estimates for remittances are combined with estimates for net transfers from UK charities, defined in the UK Balance of Payments (the Pink Book) as 'other payments by households'. In 2009, 'other payments by households' totalled £5.3 billion, the majority of which were remittances.

This figure covers all remittances sent from the UK and is not disaggregated by country. Transfer payments by individuals are also not recorded systematically. It is therefore not possible to identify each country that receives remittances from the UK; the value of remittances to individual countries; the number of people who send remittances abroad; or the value or their transfers or their income levels.

DFID's 2006 Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Remittance Survey:

www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/ukremittancessurvey.pdf

polled 1,800 households, which had transferred money from the UK in the past 12 months. It found that the median monthly income of remitting households was £1,324. The average annual value of remittances per household was £874; equivalent to 5.5% of monthly income.

### International Labour Organisation: Finance

**Ms Harman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which International Labour Organisation projects on *(a)* anti-trafficking, *(b)* forced labour and *(c)* child labour his Department funded in the last four years. [47639]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided a total of £17.05 million in un-earmarked funding to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) over the past four years under a central partnership agreement. That agreement lapsed in March 2010 and has not been renewed. Based on ILO reporting, around £3.5 million of this funding was directed towards "building global alliances against forced labour and human trafficking". The central partnership agreement did not specifically target child labour issues.

In addition, DFID has funded some ILO projects and programmes at a country level and will continue to do so while I am confident that they provide value for money and effective delivery. Complete financial information on these country level programmes cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

### International Planned Parenthood Federation: Finance

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what payments his Department plans to make to the International Planned Parenthood Federation for *(a)* abortion, *(b)* family planning and *(c)* other reproductive health services in the next 12 months; what assessment he has made since June 2010 of the value for money of such expenditure; and if he will make a statement. [47708]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Department of International Development (DFID) will provide £8.6 million to the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) in 2011-12 through a Programme Partnership Arrangement (PPA). DFID does not classify spending under the categories requested and this information cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

It is a major priority for the UK Government to improve sexual and reproductive health and rights, including access to modern family planning methods and promoting choice for women in the developing world. The UK Government does not enter the ring on the rights and wrongs of abortion. But the fact is that nearly 70,000 women in the developing world die every year as a result of unsafe abortions—and millions more risk their lives. Giving women the power over whether and when they have children is one of my top priorities. The UK Government will not stand by and let women die needlessly in pregnancy and childbirth.

On value for money, the Government take the view that investing in reproductive health is highly cost-effective and has far reaching returns for women and girls. A copy of IPPF's PPA Evaluation, 2008-10 will be placed in the Library of the House, of which Chapter 4 covers value for money.

### Marie Stopes International: Finance

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what payments his Department plans to make to Marie Stopes International for *(a)* abortion, *(b)* family planning and *(c)* other reproductive health services in the next 12 months; what assessment he has made since June 2010 of the value for money of such expenditure; and if he will make a statement. [47707]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Department of International Development (DFID) will provide £79,296 to Marie Stopes International (MSI) in 2011-12. This is the last year of the five-year Civil Society Challenge Fund grant totalling £127,430.00 that MSI is receiving for a project to empower communities to protect and advance sexual and reproductive health for poor people in Ethiopia. In addition DFID is in discussion with MSI about a longer term partnership.

DFID does not classify spending under the categories requested and this information cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

It is a major priority for the UK Government to improve sexual and reproductive health rights, including access to modern family planning methods and promoting women's choice, in the developing world. The UK Government do not enter the ring on the rights and wrongs of abortion. But the fact is that nearly 70,000 women in the developing world die every year as a result of unsafe abortions—and millions more risk their lives. Giving women the power over whether and when they have children is one my top priorities. The UK Government will not stand by and let women die needlessly in pregnancy and childbirth.

### Overseas Aid

**Ms Harman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will publish the operational plans for each country receiving bilateral aid from his Department. [47564]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** Yes.

### World Bank: Energy

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he next plans to discuss the World Bank energy strategy review with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change. [47888]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** We received a copy of the World Bank's Energy Sector Strategy on 16 March. Department for International Development (DFID) officials will be consulting across Whitehall to formulate a UK Government response. I meet the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on a regular basis and both of us are in close touch with officials on the strategy. Should we need to meet specifically on the strategy we will do so prior to its discussion by the World Bank's Committee on Development and Effectiveness on 11 April.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### e-Petitions

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Leader of the House what progress has been made in the transfer of e-petitions to the Direct.gov portal. [47382]

**Sir George Young:** The Government have announced their intention to transfer the online petition system to the Direct.gov portal by the summer. Officials within the Cabinet Office are working on an effective verification system to ensure that petitions become a useful and mature tool for engaging with politics.

## EDUCATION

### Baccalaureate

20. **Laura Sandys:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to ensure that the Government's post-16 funding allocation allows secondary schools to teach the International Baccalaureate. [47478]

**Mr Hayes:** We want schools and colleges to have the freedom and flexibility to choose from the best qualifications, including those such as the International Baccalaureate which offers real breadth and rigour to support the development of rounded individuals. That is why our priority for 16-19 funding has been to protect the core education programmes that equip young people with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed and to progress into higher education and employment.

### Sex Education

21. **Andrea Leadsom:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to ensure that only age-appropriate sex education material is used in primary schools. [47479]

**Mr Gibb:** It is important that pupils are protected from teaching and materials which are inappropriate to their age and religious and cultural background. That is why, when providing sex education, all schools must have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State and published in 2000.

The guidance provides information about how schools can set in place arrangements to protect pupils from inappropriate teaching and materials.

### Teach First

22. **Elizabeth Truss:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to expand the Teach First scheme to Norfolk. [47480]

**Mr Gibb:** The recent schools White Paper committed us to provide funding to more than double the size of the Teach First programme. Teach First is an independent charity and it decides, in consultation with the Department, where it can best deliver its mission of reducing educational disadvantage. Teach First is currently conducting a feasibility study for its expansion, including how it might expand from its current urban-based model, to one that could include dispersed rural schools.

### Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

23. **Nicola Blackwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for single assessments and education, health and care plans for children with special educational needs and disabilities. [47481]

**Sarah Teather:** The special educational needs and disability Green Paper announced that by 2014 we will replace SEN assessments and statements with a single assessment process and Education, Health and Care Plans which will provide stronger support for children and families. We will be running pathfinders testing out the single assessment and plans from September and working with the voluntary and community sector and local authorities on this and tendering for the pathfinders in June.

### Apprentices: Finance

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding he has allocated to young apprenticeships in each of the next four years. [37440]

**Mr Gibb:** The outcomes of Professor Alison Wolf's Review of Vocational Education, published on 3 March 2011, and the spending review settlement, will inform our decision about the future of the Young Apprenticeship programme and associated funding: an announcement will be made shortly.

We have confirmed funding for existing young apprentices in the next two financial years of £15.3 million in 2011-12 and £4 million in 2012-13: this will ensure that pupils who started a Young Apprenticeship in 2009 and 2010 are able to complete the programme.

### Departmental Procurement

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many procurement projects with a monetary value greater than *(a)* £10 million, *(b)* £50 million and *(c)* £100 million (i) his Department and (ii) the non-departmental public body and executive agency for which he is responsible was engaged upon in the latest period for which figures are available. [45549]

**Tim Loughton:** Based on information held centrally on procurement projects during the financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11 the Department was engaged on *(a)* seven procurement projects with a monetary value greater than £10 million; *(b)* five procurement projects with a monetary value greater than £50 million; and *(c)* five procurement projects with a monetary value greater than £100 million. Non-departmental public bodies and executive agencies were involved with two procurement projects with a monetary value greater than £10 million.

### Departmental Public Consultation

**Alok Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many public consultations his Department and its predecessors have conducted in each of the last 10 years; for how long each consultation was open; how many responses were received to each consultation; and what the cost to the public purse of conducting each consultation was. [46589]

**Tim Loughton:** A copy of the document giving details of consultations conducted by the Department for Education and its predecessors in each of the past 10 years has been placed in the Libraries. A full summary of the cost for each consultation would be possible only at disproportionate cost.

### Regulation

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education on how many occasions his Department has consulted representatives of small businesses on the effects of proposed new regulations since 6 May 2010. [46148]

**Tim Loughton:** Nearly all public consultations are put on the departmental website and anyone can respond to them. There have been 30 consultations on new regulations since 6 May 2010.

The Department does not hold centrally aggregated records of responses to consultations. However, when the results of consultation are published, they generally contain a summary of organisational responders, except where they have requested to remain confidential.

### Free School Meals and Education Maintenance Allowance

**Mr Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children receive *(a)* free school meals and *(b)* education maintenance allowance in each local authority ward in (i) Peterborough constituency and (ii) North West Cambridgeshire constituency. [46957]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 17 March 2011]:* Information on free school meal eligibility is shown in the tables.

The answer includes full-time pupils aged 0 to 15 and part-time pupils aged five to 15 known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals.

*Maintained nursery, maintained primary[1], state-funded secondary[1, 2] and special[3] schools: school meal arrangements[4, 5]. As at January 2010. Pupils attending schools located in each ward within Peterborough parliamentary constituency*

| | *Maintained nursery and primary[1]* | | | *State-funded secondary[1, 2]* | | | *Special[3]* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number on roll[4, 5]* | *Number of pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals[4, 5]* | *Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals* | *Number on roll[4, 5]* | *Number of pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals[4, 5]* | *Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals* | *Number on roll[4, 5]* | *Number of pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals[4, 5]* | *Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals* |
| Bretton North | 1,082 | 312 | 28.8 | n/a | n/a | n/a | 114 | 49 | 43.0 |
| Central | 921 | 167 | 18.1 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Dogsthorpe | 1,199 | 304 | 25.4 | n/a | n/a | n/a | 119 | 47 | 39.5 |
| East | 1,041 | 265 | 25.5 | 637 | 233 | 36.6 | 35 | 18 | 51.4 |
| Eye and Thorney | 485 | 40 | 8.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Newborough | 189 | 8 | 4.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| North | 624 | 122 | 19.6 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Park | 452 | 59 | 13.1 | 2,348 | 379 | 16.1 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Paston | 641 | 212 | 33.1 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Ravensthorpe | 459 | 151 | 32.9 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Walton | 398 | 78 | 19.6 | 1,329 | 305 | 22.9 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Werrington North | 701 | 76 | 10.8 | 859 | 106 | 12.3 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Werrington South | 616 | 43 | 7.0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| West | 1,121 | 145 | 12.9 | 1,378 | 231 | 16.8 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Peterborough (all wards) | 9,929 | 1,982 | 20.0 | 6,551 | 1,254 | 19.1 | 268 | 114 | 42.5 |

n/a = Not applicable. No schools of this type.

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools, excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.

[5] Pupils who have full time attendance and are aged 0 to 15, or pupils who have part time attendance and are aged 5 to 15. Age as at 31 August 2009

*Source:*
School Census

*Maintained nursery[1], maintained primary[2], state-funded secondary[2, 3] and special[4] schools: school meal arrangements[5, 6]. As at January 2010. Pupils attending schools located in each ward within North West Cambridgeshire constituency*

| | *Maintained nursery[1] and primary[2]* | | | *State-funded secondary[2, 3]* | | | *Special[4]* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number on roll[5, 6]* | *Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[5, 6]* | *Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals* | *Number on roll[5, 6]* | *Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[5, 6]* | *Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals* | *Number on roll[5, 6]* | *Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[5, 6]* | *Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals* |
| Barnack | 207 | 11 | 5.3 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Earith | 568 | 23 | 4.0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Ellington | 263 | 8 | 3.0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Elton and Folksworth | 200 | 13 | 6.5 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Fletton | 948 | 172 | 18.1 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Glinton and Wittering | 626 | 25 | 4.0 | 1,219 | 40 | 3.3 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Northborough | 190 | 9 | 4.7 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Orton Longueville | 1,079 | 300 | 27.8 | 812 | 108 | 13.3 | 72 | 23 | 31.9 |
| Orton Waterville | 795 | 203 | 25.5 | 627 | 164 | 26.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Orton with Hampton | 907 | 116 | 12.8 | 618 | 64 | 10.4 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Ramsey | 540 | 72 | 13.3 | 1,232 | 109 | 8.8 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Sawtry | 491 | 38 | 7.7 | 1,177 | 104 | 8.8 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Somersham | 326 | 15 | 4.6 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Stanground Central | 712 | 143 | 20.1 | 1,246 | 177 | 14.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Stanground East | 196 | 15 | 7.7 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Stilton | 265 | 23 | 8.7 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Upwood and The Raveleys | 427 | 52 | 12.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Warboys and Bury | 505 | 33 | 6.5 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Yaxley and Farcet | 914 | 106 | 11.6 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| North West Cambridgeshire (all wards) | 10,159 | 1,377 | 13.6 | 6,931 | 766 | 11.1 | 72 | 23 | 31.9 |

n/a = Not applicable. No schools of this type.
1. There are no maintained nursery schools in North West Cambridgeshire parliamentary constituency.
2. Includes middle schools as deemed.
3. Includes city technology colleges and academies.
4. Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools, excludes general hospital schools.
5. Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.
6. Pupils who have full time attendance and are aged 0 to 15, or pupils who have part time attendance and are aged 5 to 15. Age as at 31 August 2009.
*Source:*
School Census

The question of how many young people in Peterborough constituency and North West Cambridgeshire constituency received EMA is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

*Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 16 March 2011:*

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ46957.

The Department of Education has responded to you regarding the first part of your question. I have been asked to provide a reply to the latter part of your question regarding how many children in each local authority ward in Peterborough and North West Cambridgeshire constituency have received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA).

Information on the number of young people who have received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available for upper tier local authorities but not by constituency or by local authority ward.

EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year. As at 28/02/2011 EMA take-up for the 2010/2011 academic year for the City of Peterborough and Cambridgeshire local authority was 2,719 and 4,917 respectively.

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 is available on the YPLA website, at the following address:

http://ema.ypla.gov.uk/resources/research/takeup/

## Members: Correspondence

**Damian Collins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Folkestone and Hythe of 9 February 2011 on the pupil premium. [46964]

**Tim Loughton** *[holding answer 15 March 2011]:* My noble Friend Lord Hill of Oareford replied to my hon. Friend on 16 March 2011.

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) on what date *(a)* officials in his Department first identified and *(b)* he was first made aware of the difficulties in the operation of the IT system for monitoring and answering parliamentary questions and letters from hon. Members; [48045]

(2) what consideration his Department gave to informing *(a)* Mr Speaker's office, *(b)* the Leader of the House's office, *(c)* the Table Office and *(d)* hon. Members of the effects on the time taken to respond to questions and letters from hon. Members of the difficulties his Department has encountered in the operation of the IT system for monitoring and answering such material. [48046]

**Mr Gibb:** On 4 February a technical failure occurred within the Department's IT system that supports the processing of parliamentary questions. This system does not monitor letters from hon. Members. We were advised following initial investigations that the problem would be rectified within a few days and given this initial advice we did not inform Parliament. On further investigation the scale of the problem was far greater than originally anticipated, taking three weeks to be resolved. The Department did not intend to mislead Parliament, however given the eventual scale of the issue we accept that we should have informed Parliament of this situation. Since the House returned on 28 February the Department has answered over 600 questions.

### Runaway Children

**Vernon Coaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress has been made on the implementation of the Young Runaways Action Plan. [44130]

**Tim Loughton:** The Young Runaways Action Plan, published in June 2008, was produced by the previous Government. It subsequently published 'statutory guidance on children who run away and go missing from home or care'. in July 2009. Under the previous system of Public Service Agreements and National Indicators, NI 71 recorded self-evaluation scores by local authorities on measures to monitor and respond to cases of children missing from home or care. The most recent data published for NI 71 was in September 2010 and can be found on the Department for Education website here:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000958/index.shtml

### Schools: Administration

**Richard Harrington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to reduce the administrative burden upon school staff. [47474]

**Mr Gibb:** The Government are committed to reducing the administrative burden on school staff. We have already announced that: the time consuming self-evaluation form will be removed; the inspection framework will be streamlined; all data collections from schools are being reviewed; and have included measures in the Education Bill to remove unnecessary regulations. In addition, we are taking action to significantly reduce the volume of guidance and advice issued to schools and have adopted a new approach to ensure guidance is clear and concise. These changes are just the start of an ongoing programme of work and our intention is to work with local authorities and other Government Departments to reduce the administrative burden further.

### Schools: Governing Bodies

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on measures to increase the number of people applying to become governors of schools in disadvantaged areas. [36832]

**Mr Gibb:** The School Governors' One Stop Shop (SGOSS) is a private company with charitable status which is funded by the Department to recruit and place governor volunteers from the business world in schools with vacancies. SGOSS works with local authorities and schools across England and, while it focuses on areas with high vacancy rates, any school or local authority can approach it for help to fill vacancies. Its services are free of charge to schools and local authorities.

The Department is also working with the Education and Employment Taskforce to promote school governance as a volunteering opportunity to companies. Governor volunteers will bring with them a range of skills acquired in the workplace, which will be particularly helpful to governing bodies in all areas, including those which are disadvantaged.

### Schools: Roads

**Graham Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many primary schools did not have a road safety officer in the latest period for which figures are available; [45754]

(2) at how many primary schools one or more access points from the street is not lit by public street lighting; [45879]

(3) how many primary schools in England are situated on roads where the speed limit is the national speed limit. [45880]

**Mr Gibb:** This information is not held centrally.

### Schools: Sports

**Amber Rudd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much School Sport Partnership grant was allocated to Hastings and Rother in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008, *(c)* 2009 and *(d)* 2010. [33698]

**Tim Loughton:** The information is set out in the table.

| | *School sport partnership grant* | *Coaching* | *Swimming* | *FE sport co-ordinators* | £<br>*Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2007 | 255,292 | 17,500 | — | — | 272,792 |
| 2008 | 284,654 | 21,500 | 4,999 | 26,100 | 337,253 |
| 2009 | 282,153 | 21,500 | 4,999 | 26,100 | 334,752 |

| | *School sport partnership grant* | *Coaching* | *Swimming* | *FE sport co-ordinators* | £<br>*Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2010[1] | 290,710 | 21,500 | 4,999 | 26,100 | 343,309 |

[1] Anticipated.

### Squatting

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many buildings on his Department's estate were occupied by squatters in each year between 2006 and 2010; and on how many occasions his Department sought interim possession orders to remove squatters from such buildings in each of those years. [47619]

**Tim Loughton:** None of the Departments buildings were occupied by squatters during the year 2006 to 2010.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer question 37084, tabled on 25 January 2011 for named day answer on 31 January 2011, on a free schools event. [40788]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 14 February 2011]:* A response was issued to the hon. Member's question on 9 March 2011, *Official Report,* columns 1117-118W.

### Science: Females

**Nicola Blackwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to encourage girls to choose science, technology, engineering or mathematics at GCSE level. [46039]

**Mr Gibb:** The Government are funding a number of initiatives to encourage the greater participation of girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM subjects) at GCSE, A Level and beyond. These include:

Commissioning the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM), and the National Strategies to look at ways to help widen participation in mathematics with a particular focus on engaging more girls (including reviewing the ways in which schools approach how mathematics is delivered);

Identifying resources that will engage girls more in these subjects;

Establishing the Stimulating Physics network to provide support at regional level to widen participation in A level physics; and

The network of Science Learning Centres disseminating best practice from their Girls into Physics action research programme.

In addition, the STEM Ambassadors programme arranges for over 20,000 individuals drawn from more than 1,500 employers to volunteer their time and expertise to help schools and colleges, acting as role models and enhancing and enriching their pupils' understanding of, and enthusiasm for, STEM subjects. Almost 50% of the current STEM Ambassadors are female.

In 2010, more girls than boys were entered for GCSE Mathematics, and AS and A Level Biology.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Child Benefit

**Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether parents of children aged under 12 years who cease to be eligible for child benefit as a result of their partner being a higher rate income tax payer will be eligible for carers credit. [44656]

**Steve Webb:** The withdrawal of child benefit from families containing a higher rate taxpayer will not affect national insurance credits for state pension entitlement.

### Child Maintenance: Fees and Charges

**Graeme Morrice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research his Department has undertaken into the potential effect on vulnerable groups of a charging regime for child support. [47156]

**Maria Miller:** The Government will develop detailed proposals in relation to charging criteria and these will be outlined in draft regulations later in the year. Impact assessments accompanying the draft regulations will set out the estimated effects on volumes and individuals who will be affected by the proposed new charges.

### Child: Maintenance

**Graeme Morrice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the introduction of private voluntary agreements to collect child maintenance payments on the number of resident parents using such agreements. [43390]

**Maria Miller:** Family-based arrangements are already possible and while some parents use them, research suggests around half of parents currently using the statutory child maintenance scheme would want to make family based arrangements if given support to do so. The coalition Government want to support more families to be able to collaborate and come to family-based arrangements which in general are better for children, as both parents continue to be actively involved in their children's lives.

The recent child maintenance Green Paper "Strengthening Families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child maintenance" also recognises that some parents may need support in reaching these arrangements. The intention is to integrate the information and support available to separating and separated parents, with the aim of supporting more parents as they look to agree family-based arrangements.

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what charges will be levied under the planned charging regime for the future child support scheme against a *(a)* parent with care and *(b)* non-resident parent in receipt of jobseeker's allowance who has been unable to agree a voluntary family-based agreement. [46062]

**Maria Miller:** The Government want to encourage parents to take responsibility for their children's financial support after parental separation and to facilitate co-parenting and ongoing involvement of both parents in their children's lives. The majority of parents currently using the statutory service have indicated they would make a family-based arrangement if given support to do so.

The Green Paper consultation document "Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child maintenance" recently published by the Government outlines proposals for the reform of the child maintenance system in more detail. Chapter two of the consultation document outlines the Government's proposals for charging. Financial decisions on this aspect of policy will be made once the consultation has concluded.

The consultation closes on 7 April 2011 and can be viewed at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/strengthening-families.pdf

### Crisis Loans

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions during their operation the number of social fund crisis loans available to an individual over a 12-month period has been capped. [47307]

**Steve Webb:** Social fund crisis loans for living expenses will be capped at the level of three within a 12-month rolling period from 4 April 2011.

A pilot was conducted between 27 April 2009 and 31 March 2010 in South West region and 8 June 2009 and 31 March 2010 in the East Midlands where the number of social fund crisis loans for living expenses were capped at three within a rolling 12-month period.

The Department collected management information on this pilot but it is not robust enough to be used as a response to a parliamentary question.

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely effect of his decision on the *(a)* level and *(b)* availability of crisis fund loans on the number of loans taken out by people on low incomes from high-cost or illegal lenders. [47339]

**Steve Webb:** As outlined in my written ministerial statement of 3 March 2011, we have had to take urgent action to bring spending on crisis loans back under control and ensure we can continue to meet genuine need, including through budgeting loans.

We have no information on which to make an assessment in respect of crisis loans. However, without corrective action the funding shortfall for crisis loans would have to be met from the budgeting loan scheme which evidence suggests is an important alternative to illegal lending for the poorest in society.

### Crisis Loans: Barking and Dagenham

**Margaret Hodge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in the Jobcentre Plus Social Fund budget areas covering the London borough of Barking and Dagenham have received *(a)* crisis loans, *(b)* community care grants, *(c)* funeral payments, *(d)* budgeting loans and *(e)* maternity grants in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [47242]

**Steve Webb:** We are unable to report on social fund awards at the London borough level however the London borough of Barking and Dagenham is part of the North and North East London Social Fund budget area level. Awards in this area are as follows:

*Initial awards in London Social Fund Budget area March 2010 and 2011*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Budgeting Loan | 34,720 |
| Community Care Grant | 6190 |
| Crisis Loan | 64,160 |
| Funeral Payment | 760 |
| Sure Start Maternity Grant | 10,510 |

*Notes:*

1. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, they do not include applications which were processed clerically and have not yet been entered on to the Social Fund Computer System.
2. These are initial awards and do not include awards made on review other than for Funeral Payments and Sure Start Maternity Grant which do include awards made on appeal.
3. Figures have been rounded.

*Source:*

DWP Policy, Budget and Management Information System (PBMIS)

### Departmental Public Appointments

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which public bodies sponsored by his Department *(a)* have been and *(b)* are to be closed, merged or reorganised following his appointment; and how many (i) women and (ii) men who are public appointees at each body will no longer hold such an appointment in consequence. [47112]

**Chris Grayling:** The coalition Government are committed to increasing the accountability of public bodies, and this involves reducing their number and their cost to the taxpayer. The proposals for the majority of bodies across all Departments was announced and published on 14 October 2010. An updated list reflecting changes since October 2010 has been published on the Cabinet Office website this month.

Summary information on public appointments is published annually by the Cabinet Office. This includes data on gender. Copies of the most recent report can be downloaded from:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/ndpb

### Public Bodies Reform Programme

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10W, on the public bodies reform programme, what estimate he has made of the savings to his Department net of costs incurred in the assumption of additional departmental responsibilities to accrue from *(a)* the abolition of three public bodies within his Department's area of responsibility, *(b)* the merger of one such body and *(c)* the change in function of two such bodies. [48143][1]

**Chris Grayling:** On 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10W, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), issued a written ministerial statement updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that Departments estimate cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

I anticipate net overall administrative savings from structural reforms over the spending review period of £0.141 million. Overall administrative reductions from reform of all departmental public bodies are currently estimated to be £17.95 million over the spending review period.

### Disability Living Allowance

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) with reference to paragraph 6 of his Department's impact assessment on reform of disability living allowance, what estimate he has made of the savings to accrue from *(a)* a facility to regularly review all awards and *(b)* the establishment of rates of allowance based on (i) ability to carry out daily life activities and (ii) ability to get around in each year to 2015-16; [46391]

(2) with reference to paragraph 6 of his Department's impact assessment on reform of disability living allowance, what estimate he has made of the potential savings which will arise from a move away from automatic entitlement in each year to 2015-16; [46393]

(3) with reference to paragraph 6 of his Department's impact assessment on reform of disability living allowance, what estimate he has made of the potential savings to the public purse from *(a)* the new assessment process and *(b)* the deferred eligibility periods proposed by his Department in each year to 2015-16; [46394]

(4) with reference to paragraph 16 of his Department's impact assessment on reform of disability living allowance, what estimate he has made of the cash savings arising from the application of his policy to the persons in each *(a)* care rate and *(b)* mobility rate band in each year to 2014-15; [46395]

(5) with reference to his Department's impact assessment on reform of disability living allowance, what estimate he has made of the potential savings of implementation of the policy if present entitlement conditions continue for *(a)* one year, *(b)* 18 months, *(c)* 24 months and *(d)* 36 months; [46396]

(6) with reference to his Department's impact assessment on reform of disability living allowance, what estimate he has made of the number of claimants of disability living allowance in each income decile who will have their allowance reduced in each year to 2015-16; [46397]

(7) what estimate he has made of the potential change in *(a)* the average disability living allowance payment and *(b)* the number of claimants of the allowance as a result of his proposed reforms in each year to 2014-15. [46407]

**Maria Miller:** Support in personal independence payment will be focused on those who face barriers to independent living. The assessment is being developed and at this stage, therefore, an assessment is not available of the impact changes could have on existing disability living allowance, or future recipients. We are working with disabled people and organisations who represent them on the detailed design and delivery of personal independence payment and the outcomes from this work will be reflected in updates to the impact assessment for this change. We have already announced that personal independence payment will be a non taxable, non means-tested benefit payable to people in and out of work.

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to his Department's impact assessment on reform of disability living allowance, what estimate he has made of the proportion of the disability living allowance budget which was spent on claims which were fraudulent in the latest period for which figures are available. [46392]

**Chris Grayling:** The estimated level of fraud in disability living allowance for the period October 2008 to September 2009 is 0.5% (£60 million). The estimate is based on a national benefit review of disability living allowance which was carried out in 2004-05.

The latest estimates of fraud and error in the benefits system can be found at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd2/fem/
fem_oct08_sep09.pdf

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions by what means disability living allowance assessments will take into account the needs of patients with *(a)* sickle cell disease, *(b)* thalassaemia, *(c)* multiple sclerosis, *(d)* mental health conditions and *(e)* other fluctuating conditions; and if he will make a statement. [46896]

**Maria Miller:** The Government published the consultation document 'Disability Living Allowance Reform' on 6 December 2010, which was followed by the publication of the Welfare Reform Bill on 16 February 2011. Both outlined proposals to replace disability living allowance for working age claimants with a new benefit—personal independence payment.

The assessment for personal independence payment is being developed in collaboration with an independent group of specialists in health, social care and disability, including disabled people. We are designing the assessment to target support on those disabled people who are most impacted by their health condition or impairment, regardless of the nature of that impairment. As such we intend it to take account of physical, sensory, mental, intellectual and cognitive impairments, including variable and fluctuating conditions.

We are considering the most appropriate delivery model for the personal independence payment assessment and no decisions have yet been taken. We will continue to work with disabled people and their organisations on the details of our reforms, including the detail of the assessment criteria and its operation, to ensure that we get them right.

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[1] *[Official Report, 26 April 2011, Vol. 527, c. 1-2MC.]*

**Dr Wollaston:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Totnes, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* England receive the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance. [47529]

**Maria Miller:** The information is as follows:

*Disability living allowance recipients with higher rate mobility component in Totnes parliamentary constituency, the South West and England, August 2010*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Totnes | 2,550 |
| South West | 127,130 |
| England | 1,432,020 |

*Notes:*
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes cases where the payment has been suspended.
3. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament 2010.

*Source:*
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 100% WPLS.

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the Social Security Advisory Committee's response to the consultation on his proposed changes to disability living allowance. [47808]

**Maria Miller:** The consultation on DLA reform ran from 6 December 2010 to 18 February 2011. We received over 5,000 individual responses and 500 responses from organisations, including the response from the Social Security Advisory Committee.

We are considering the responses at the moment and plan to publish the Government response shortly.

### Disability Living Allowance: Autism

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to ensure that the proposed changes to disability living allowance do not have an adverse effect on claimants diagnosed with autism. [47786]

**Maria Miller:** The Government propose to replace disability living allowance with personal independence payment in 2013-14. We are still considering the most appropriate delivery model for the personal independence payment assessment and no decisions have yet been taken, including how it will apply to existing DLA recipients. We know it is essential that the assessment accurately captures the needs of disabled people with autistic spectrum disorders and this is something that the development group is considering. For example, they believe that the new assessment should explicitly take account of the impact of a health condition or impairment, including autistic spectrum disorders, on an individual's ability to communicate. This would set it apart from the current DLA assessment. We also recognise the importance of providing adequate training and guidance for assessors and of ensuring that the assessment process is appropriate to individual's circumstances, including individuals with autistic spectrum disorders.

Both I and departmental officials have met with the National Autistic Society to discuss our reform proposals and to seek their views on how the new benefit can best support those with autism. We agree with many of the points raised in the National Autistic Society's recent report on DLA reform, "Who benefits?", and we are looking closely at how these recommendations can be incorporated into its design. We are keen to continue to work with disabled people and their organisations as the detail of the assessment criteria and its operation is developed and tested.

**Christopher Pincher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to exempt those diagnosed with autism from compulsory disability living allowance personal interviews. [47830]

**Maria Miller:** The Government propose to replace disability living allowance with personal independence payment in 2013-14. We are still considering the most appropriate delivery model for the personal independence payment assessment and no decisions have yet been taken, including how it will apply to existing DLA recipients. However, we believe that advice from a suitably trained and approved individual, for example a healthcare professional, will be an important part of ensuring that the assessment is more objective and consistent. In most cases, we expect this to involve a face-to-face consultation to enable an in-depth look at an individual's circumstances.

We know it is essential that the assessment accurately captures the needs of disabled people with autistic spectrum disorders and this is something that the development group is considering. For example, they believe that the new assessment should explicitly take account of the impact of a health condition or impairment, including autistic spectrum disorders, on an individual's ability to communicate. This would set it apart from the current DLA assessment. We also recognise the importance of ensuring that the assessment process is appropriate to individual's circumstances, including individuals with autistic spectrum disorders. Both I and departmental officials have met with the National Autistic Society to discuss our reform proposals and to seek their views on how the new benefit can best support those with autism. We will continue to work with disabled people and their organisations as the detail of the assessment criteria and its operation is developed and tested.

### Disability Living Allowance: Expenditure

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the likely change in expenditure as a result of extending the qualifying period for disability living allowance from three months to six months. [37195]

**Maria Miller:** On 6 December we launched a consultation on the reform of disability living allowance with the key proposal of a new benefit, to be known as personal independence payment, which will be introduced from 2013. The consultation proposed that personal independence payment will have a six-month qualifying period and a six-month prospective test. The consultation closed on 18 February.

Extending the qualifying period to six months will be implemented alongside the new assessment which is still being developed. Any change in expenditure will, therefore, be dependent on both these factors.

### Disability Living Allowance: Fraud

**Susan Elan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the level of fraudulent disability living allowance claims as a proportion of total claims in the latest period for which figures are available. [42734]

**Maria Miller:** The estimated level of fraud in disability living allowance for the period October 2008 to September 2009 is 0.5% (£60 million). The estimate is based on a National Benefit Review of Disability Living Allowance which was carried out in 2004-05.

The latest estimates of fraud and error in the benefits system can be found at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd2/fem/fem_oct08_sep09.pdf

No estimates are available of payments made in error where eligibility has ceased.

### Disability Living Allowance: West Midlands

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Coventry and *(b)* the West Midlands receive the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance. [47377]

**Maria Miller:** The information requested is as follows:

*Disability living allowance recipients with higher rate mobility component in Coventry local authority and West Midlands—August 2010*

| | *Total* |
|---|---|
| Coventry | 9,620 |
| West Midlands | 169,890 |

*Notes:*
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance and excludes cases where the payment has been suspended.
3. These figures are published at:
http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html
*Source:*
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 100% WPLS

### Employment and Support Allowance: Barking and Dagenham

**Margaret Hodge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham have been in receipt of contributory-based employment and support allowance (work related activity group) for 12 months or longer. [47243]

**Chris Grayling:** The information requested is as follows:

*Number of people in receipt of contributory-based Employment and Support Allowance (Work Related Activity Group) in the London borough of Barking and Dagenham, August 2010*

| *Work Related Activity Group* | *All* | *Duration 12 months or more* |
|---|---|---|
| All | 260 | 140 |
| Contributory element | 100 | 50 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Benefit type: The type of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) is defined as pay status at the caseload date—this may differ to the status at the start or end of the claim.
3. ESA replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
4. Phase/stage of ESA claim is only available from February 2010 onwards. The phase is derived from payment details held on the source system.
*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

### Social Security Benefits Cancer

**Mr Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what requirements he plans to put in place for people receiving *(a)* oral chemotherapy and *(b)* radiotherapy treatment for cancer to (i) undergo medical assessments and (ii) participate in work-related activities in order to receive benefits under the provisions of the Welfare Reform Bill; and if he will make a statement. [46439]

**Chris Grayling:** We are determined that the social security system should support people who are diagnosed with cancer in the most sensitive, fair and appropriate way. We have no interest in making it harder for those who cannot work to claim benefits.

We have taken positive steps to improve the work capability assessment (WCA) so that it is fairer and more effective for individuals diagnosed with cancer. The current system allows individuals undergoing certain types of chemotherapy to have automatic entry to the support group. In June we announced changes, coming into force later this month, extending this entitlement to people awaiting or between courses of these types of chemotherapy.

Meanwhile, Professor Malcolm Harrington, as part of his second independent review, has asked Macmillan Cancer Support to consider whether further improvements are needed, including whether people receiving oral chemotherapy should be placed directly into the support group. We look forward to receiving Macmillan's and Professor Harrington's recommendations for any further improvements.

### Employment Schemes: Procurement

**Alun Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures will be in place to ensure that small and medium-sized enterprises that win Work Programme contracts are not put at a financial disadvantage as a result of the time taken for payments to be made under the payment-by-results scheme. [48020]

**Chris Grayling:** In order to drive the best value for money for the taxpayer we are using a Prime Provider model to deliver the Work programme. The Prime Providers will be underpinned by smaller, specialist sub contractors to ensure the individual needs of all customers are met at a local level. It is at this sub contractor level where we would expect to see small and medium-sized enterprises.

The provider payment model for the Work programme has been extensively tested and assured to ensure that it is commercially and financially viable for potential suppliers. The payment model is largely outcome-based with a job outcome payment paid once the customer has been in employment for 13 or 26 weeks depending on customer group, and sustainment payments paid monthly thereafter for continued employment. During the first three years of the contracts the Department will also be paying an attachment fee to providers. The attachment fee is specifically designed to help providers with cash flow in the early years of the contracts, before being withdrawn as the programme matures and they start to receive greater remuneration from outcome-based payments.

Within the standard terms and conditions of contract for the Work programme, the Department has committed to pay all providers within 30 calendar days of notification. The Prime Contractor will be entitled to receive interest after 30 calendar days on any payment that is not made when properly due.

In addition, the Department has sought to strengthen the hand of smaller organisations in their dealings with our Prime Providers, and I believe that the systems we are putting in place will mean a more level playing field. In particular our 'Merlin Standard' will ensure that smaller organisations are treated fairly in their dealings with primes and that supply chains remain robust and healthy.

### EU Agenda for New Skills and Jobs

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on the comprehensive review of health and safety legislation by 2014 proposed in the EU agenda for new skills and jobs; what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of conducting the review; and if he will make a statement. [47012]

**Chris Grayling:** The European Commission has yet to announce the scope and nature of its proposed review of EU health and safety legislation. Consequently, it is not yet possible to provide a meaningful or accurate estimate of how much it would cost. The Government will work to ensure that any future proposals respect the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, and are accompanied by a full impact assessment. Provided these principles are respected, in principle, a review of EU legislation in this field could provide the opportunity and evidence for removing obsolete or inefficient laws. In particular it could be used to examine which EU health and safety rules for low risk businesses are overly prescriptive, which are disproportionate and which seek unnecessarily to eliminate risk instead of managing it. These aims would be consistent with the recommendations in "Common Sense, Common Safety", which the Government accepted in October 2010.

### Family Breakdown

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has taken to reduce the incidence of family breakdown since his appointment. [48121]

**Maria Miller:** A Social Justice Cabinet Committee has been established chaired by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which seeks to tackle the underlying factors that trap people at the bottom of the social ladder, one of these factors being family breakdown. I am also looking at international models to see if there is best practice in this area which could usefully be integrated into our proposals for Great Britain.

Our programme for government made clear our commitment to supporting and strengthening families. Where relationship breakdown is unavoidable our approach is the same—we will support strong families including those that are separating or separated to work together to reach agreements that are in the best interests of their children. In the recently published Green Paper 'Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child maintenance':

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/strengthening-families.pdf

we outline our proposals for the reform of child maintenance. These include encouraging parents to work collaboratively to fulfil their responsibilities and, where child maintenance is involved, to make family-based child maintenance arrangements wherever possible as these will facilitate co-parenting and the ongoing involvement of both parents in children's lives.

My Department is also working closely with the Department for Education and the Ministry of Justice with the aim of joining up support to separating and separated parents so they receive the help they need to work together and make post-separation arrangements that are in their children's best interests.

### Free Movement of Labour

**Mr Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans his Department has to provide assistance to local authorities on the abolition of transitional arrangements for A8 workers; and whether his Department plans to provide guidance on this issue. [46272]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department operates a dedicated email enquiry point to provide assistance to local authorities on such matters.

Detailed guidance on the benefit position of A8 nationals from 1 May 2011 will be made available to local authorities shortly. In addition, we have been working with Homeless Link who published guidance on A8 rough sleepers earlier this month.

### Housing Benefit: Affordable Housing

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research he has commissioned on the availability of affordable homes in *(a)* Bristol East constituency, *(b)* Bristol, *(c)* the South West and *(d)* nationally following implementation of his proposed changes to local housing allowances. [46713]

**Steve Webb:** The Department is in the process of a procurement exercise with leading research organisations for the evaluation and monitoring of the impact of the housing benefit measures. The precise form of the evaluation will depend upon the outcome of negotiations with the successful contractor, but we anticipate that it will consider the availability of affordable homes and include fieldwork examining the effects on different types of households in a range of areas across Great Britain.

### Housing Benefit: Berkshire

**Alok Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have claimed housing benefit in *(a)* Reading West constituency, *(b)* Reading and *(c)* Berkshire in each of the last 10 years. [46632]

**Steve Webb:** The information requested for Reading West constituency is not available.

A copy of the available information on HB recipients by local authority has been placed in the Library.

### Means-tested Benefits: Peterborough

**Mr Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children in each electoral ward of the Peterborough city council area lived in households in receipt of means-tested benefits in the latest period for which figures are available. [47664]

**Maria Miller:** There were 7,295 children aged 15 and under in Peterborough living in households where a parent or guardian is in receipt of income support, jobseeker's allowance or pension credit in May 2008.

The following table shows the number of children aged 15 and under in each electoral ward of the Peterborough city council area living in households where a parent or guardian is in receipt of income support, jobseeker's allowance or pension credit in May 2008.

| *Ward name* | *Total children aged 15 and under* |
|---|---|
| Barnack | 25 |
| Bretton North | 595 |
| Bretton South | 155 |
| Central | 635 |
| Dogsthorpe | 715 |
| East | 655 |
| Eye and Thorney | 115 |
| Fletton | 285 |
| Glinton and Wittering | 50 |
| Newborough | 50 |
| North | 370 |
| Northborough | 10 |
| Orton Longueville | 785 |
| Orton Waterville | 260 |
| Orton with Hampton | 280 |
| Park | 240 |
| Paston | 575 |
| Ravensthorpe | 515 |
| Stanground Central | 250 |
| Stanground East | 140 |
| Walton | 170 |
| Werrington North | 190 |
| Werrington South | 105 |
| West | 125 |

*Source:*
DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, HMRC Child Benefit administrative data.

### New Deal Schemes

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons there was a reduction in the number of flexible new deal starts between May and November 2010. [46502]

**Chris Grayling:** The reduction in the number of flexible new deal starts between May and November 2010 reflects two factors:

starts were due to reduce over this period as the stock of jobseeker's allowance customers who had to wait for FND to begin reduced;

starts fell more due to a fall in the number of people who claimed jobseeker's allowance, and so in due course, the numbers who became eligible for the provision.

### Personal Independence Payment: Autism

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to ensure that a person with autism who undergoes an assessment for the proposed personal independence payment will have the appropriate support to attend an assessment. [47039]

**Maria Miller:** We are considering the delivery model for the personal independence payment assessment and no decisions have yet been taken. We recognise the importance of ensuring that the assessment process is appropriate to individual's circumstances, including individuals with autistic spectrum disorders. We are clear that if an individual is able to bring someone who knows them well with them to a face-to-face consultation, and wishes to do so, this will be welcomed. It will of course be essential to ensure that we get the processes right and we will be keen to work with disabled people and their organisations as we further develop these.

### Post Office Card Account

**Sarah Newton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions by what date he expects a direct debit payment facility on the Post Office card account to have been enabled. [47814]

**Steve Webb:** The Government remain committed to giving Post Office card account holders the chance to benefit from direct debit discounts. However, this does not necessarily mean adding a direct debit facility to the Post Office card account itself.

We are awaiting the outcome of new research, exploring the options for all consumers to have the opportunity to benefit from direct debit discounts.

Officials from all interested Departments are working closely to steer the direction of the research. This will explore the possibilities for a commercially viable business model for a new account, which would be designed to meet the needs of low income consumers by supporting positive financial management, smoothing expenditure and enabling access to better value services and products.

### Private Pensions

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of people in the UK with private pensions which provide an income of between £17,500 and £30,000 per year. [46760]

**Steve Webb:** Estimates from the Family Resources Survey show that in 2008-09 there were 700,000 people in the UK in receipt of private pension income of between £17,500 and £30,000 per year.

*Notes:*

1. The Family Resources Survey is a nationally representative sample of approximately 25,000 households in the United Kingdom. Data for 2008-09 was collected between April 2008 and March 2009.

2. The figures from the Family Resources Survey are based on a sample of households which have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the Family Resources Survey to Government office region population by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-response error.

3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand adults.

*Source:*

DWP analysis of 2008-09 Family Resources Survey.

### Public Expenditure

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of people in *(a)* Glasgow North East constituency, *(b)* Glasgow, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Great Britain who will be affected by the change in the under-occupancy rules affecting 25 to 35-year-olds over the period of the comprehensive spending review; and if he will estimate the average change to their annual incomes. [46930]

**Steve Webb:** It is estimated that in Great Britain by the end of the comprehensive spending review period 88,000 people aged 25 to 34 who would otherwise have received the one bedroom rate of local housing allowance may instead be assessed at the shared accommodation rate. On average their annual housing benefit award will be around £2,500 lower in 2014-15 than it would have been if assessed at the one bedroom rate.

Estimates of the local and regional effects will be published when the relevant regulations are laid later this year.

*Note:*

The figure of £2,500 is rounded to nearest £500.

### Social Security Benefits: Families

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions under what criteria working families would be exempted from the proposed overall benefit cap. [46281]

**Chris Grayling:** As the spending review announced, households which contain a member who is in receipt of working tax credit will be exempt from the cap. We are still considering the precise criteria for an equivalent exemption under universal credit.

In addition, war widows and war widowers and households that contain a member who is in receipt of disability living allowance or constant attendance allowance will be exempt from the benefit cap.

We are looking at ways of easing the transition for families and providing assistance in hard cases.

### Social Security Benefits: Autism

**Graeme Morrice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on requiring *(a)* knowledge and *(b)* understanding of autism spectrum disorder in (i) the training of assessors and (ii) the conduct of assessments for work capability assessments. [47155]

**Chris Grayling:** All Atos health care professionals (HCP's) who carry out assessments for employment and support allowance receive training on autistic spectrum disorders. As part of induction training they are issued with evidence-based protocols on mental health conditions which include information on autistic spectrum disorders. In addition, the training for all registered nurses and physiotherapists includes cases with role players where autistic spectrum disorder is the principal diagnosis.

Following this, all HCP's are required to engage in a programme of continuing medical education and Atos, in conjunction with the DWP, have developed a number of training modules specifically on autistic spectrum disorders as part of this.

### Social Security Benefits: EU Nationals

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the potential implications for the UK of the EU agenda for new skills and jobs proposals for the future of social security systems; whether such proposals will entail *(a)* costs to the public purse and *(b)* transfers of powers from the UK; and if he will make a statement. [46851]

**Chris Grayling:** The Commission Communication "An Agenda for New Skills and Jobs" makes no specific proposals in relation to social security beyond calling for an awareness campaign on the EU social security coordination rules so that citizens understand their rights when moving within Europe. This campaign has been designed by the European Commission and does not involve any direct costs to the public purse or transfer of powers from the UK. Furthermore, the campaign does not change in any way conditions for receiving social security benefits, and the UK already has in place strict controls on access to non-contributory benefits for migrants.

The Communication also refers to social security as one of four components of the policy concept of "flexicurity". This was defined by Council Principles in December 2007. The term is applied to a range of measures within national competence under the long-running European Employment Strategy, now incorporated into Europe 2020, which allows for coordination between member states. Flexicurity seeks to improve the flexibility of labour markets while providing adequate security of employment. The UK is one of the leading models in this regard and we are promoting our approaches to welfare reform with other countries so that across the EU more people are in employment.

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the implications for the UK of EU proposals to maximise the potential contribution of migration to full employment; and if he will make a statement. [46852]

**Chris Grayling:** The European Commission report "An Agenda for New Skills and Jobs" was published on 23 November 2010. My Department has not made a specific assessment of the implications of this report. It acknowledges that the main responsibility for policy in this area rests with member states and none of the proposals it makes imply any change to existing rules on EU migration.

Issues which the report considers include barriers to employment created by discrimination and non-recognition of skills. These can adversely affect the employment prospects of UK nationals seeking work in other EU countries as well as those of EU nationals who would like to work in the UK.

The UK Government have stated their intention to reduce migration levels over the lifetime of this Parliament. An annual limit on the number of non-EU workers will be introduced in April 2011 to ensure only those with the skills the country needs can come to the UK from outside the EU to work.

### Universal Credit

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the evidential basis is for his estimate that universal credit will lead to a reduction of 300,000 in the number of workless households. [46505]

**Chris Grayling:** I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the latest universal credit impact assessment available on the Department for Work and Pensions website.

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make an assessment of the costs and benefits of splitting payments under the universal credit to partners in two person couples with children. [47001]

**Maria Miller:** Under universal credit, couples living in the same household will make a joint claim for the benefit payment and we assume that ordinarily the payment will be made as a single sum to the household. In recognition of the fact that different households organise their finances and budget in different ways, we are allowing couples to decide between them whether the money goes to a joint bank account or to one or other of them.

However, there may be exceptional cases that require alternative arrangements and the Government intend to retain power to arrange payments to couples to offer safeguards. We are considering the circumstances for and details of these alternative arrangements, and work is ongoing. For example, where there is proven abuse of the money by one partner, the Government already have and will retain the power to direct payments to the other partner, or there may be instances where it is more appropriate to divide the payment.

### Universal Credit: Disability

**Margaret Curran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether *(a)* statutory sick pay and *(b)* employment and support allowance claimed for the first six months of an illness be treated as earnings when calculating earnings disregard for the purposes of his proposed universal credit. [48015]

**Maria Miller:** There are no grounds for treating employment support allowance as earnings.

It may be logical to treat payments such as statutory sick pay in the same way as earnings as they are paid by employers. Final decisions have not yet been made.

**Margaret Curran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether any extra support offered to disabled people in receipt of universal credit will be available to those who *(a)* live alone and *(b)* do not have a carer. [48016]

**Maria Miller:** The Government's aim for universal credit is to simplify the current complex array of overlapping premiums to ensure that disabled people benefit from improved work incentives as well as supporting those in greatest need. The aim is that universal credit will include additional amounts that correspond to the two components currently payable in employment and support allowance.

### Winter Fuel Payments

**Mr Mark Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the annual effect on his Department's expenditure of removing the entitlement to winter fuel allowance from persons with an annual income of more than *(a)* £50,000 and *(b)* £100,000. [47124]

**Steve Webb:** Winter fuel payment eligibility covers those who are over female state pension age (including men who have yet to reach the male state pension age of 65) and are ordinarily resident in the UK.

Information on winter fuel payment eligibility and households with higher annual incomes is available from data collected in the Family Resources Survey.

*(a)* If entitlement to winter fuel payments were restricted to those in households with annual net Before Housing Costs income of £50,000 or less, it is estimated that the total winter fuel payment bill for Great Britain would reduce by £110 million per year.

*(b)* If entitlement to winter fuel payments were restricted to those in households with annual net before housing costs income of £100,000 or less, it is estimated that the total winter fuel payment bill for Great Britain would reduce by £20 million per year.

In 2011/12, winter fuel payment expenditure is forecast to be £2.082 billion. As such, the saving represented by restricting to those in households with annual net before housing costs income of £50,000 or less represents 5% of these payments, while restricting to those with £100,000 or less represents 1%.

*Notes:*

1. Information on household income and eligibility for winter fuel payments are available from the Family Resources Survey, for which 2008-09 is the latest year available.

2. Estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. For this reason savings are rounded to the nearest £10 million.

3. For the purpose of this question, net household incomes before housing costs have been used. This includes net earnings from employment and self-employment, state support, income from occupational and private pensions, investment income and other sources. Incomes are net of income tax, national insurance and council tax. In practice, the level of savings may vary due to how this would be implemented.

4. Savings to winter fuel payment expenditure use the 2011-12 expenditure forecasts and are therefore based on a £200 payment to households containing someone aged over female state pension age, with an additional £100 payment to households containing someone aged 80 or over. There are additional rules determining how much households containing more than one eligible individual and individuals in receipt of certain benefits receive. These additional rules are also included in the calculations. Family Resources Survey data has been used to calculate the proportion of expenditure which goes to the high income households as specified.

### Work Capability Assessment

**Stephen Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has engaged Unum in the *(a)* design and *(b)* administration of the (i) work capability assessment and (ii) appeals process. [46816]

**Chris Grayling:** The work capability assessment was developed in 2008 with the assistance of technical working groups. As you may be aware, the Government consult widely with stakeholders and sources of public and private sector expertise, to ensure that its policies are evidence-based. Two Unum employees, a doctor and an occupational therapist, were invited to join the technical working group that carried out the review of the personal capability assessment. As with all members of the technical working group they were appointed as recognised experts in benefit assessment and in supporting return to work for people with disability.

I can confirm that since the initial review of the personal capability assessment as part of the technical working groups, that representatives of the company, Unum, have not been involved in either the administration or review of the work capability assessment.

The Department of Work and Pension has also not engaged with Unum in the design or administration of the appeals process.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Business: Ethics

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to publish the Government's corporate responsibility strategy. [47122]

**Mr Davey:** The Government believe that all businesses can play a part in tackling the social, environmental and economic challenges we face—and benefit commercially in the process—by minimising the negative social and environmental impacts of their activities and maximising the positive. Encouraging responsible behaviour by business through the alignment of market incentives with positive social outcomes is relevant in a broad range of policy areas across government.

The Prime Minister recently launched the Every Business Commits agenda, calling on businesses to help create a more sustainable and community-centred approach to doing business.

More broadly the Government are focused on influencing the development of international policy on corporate responsibility, including through engagement with the European Commission, and work to update the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

There are no current plans to publish a specific document setting the Government's strategy for corporate responsibility.

### Business: North East England

**Tom Blenkinsop:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions his Department has consulted representatives of small businesses in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency on the effects of proposed new regulations since his appointment. [47588]

**Mr Prisk:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has launched 34 written consultations since May 2010. These are available for viewing on the Department's Internet site at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/Consultations

BIS seeks views on these from businesses from all regions and of all sizes, including those of small businesses. The specific information requested is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Business Regulation

**Nick de Bois:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the progress of implementation of the Government's one-in, one-out policy in respect of domestic legislation affecting business and the third sector. [47375]

**Mr Prisk** *[holding answer 18 March 2011]:* The one-in, one-out policy took effect from autumn 2011. It applies to domestic regulation and the Government plan to release a Statement of Regulation shortly. The Statement of Regulation will detail the classification of regulation due to come into effect in the first half of 2011 as either an In, Out or net zero measure. To ensure the analysis underpinning the regulatory measures is accurate, all measures are independently validated by the Regulatory Policy Committee.

### Business: Rural Areas

**Mrs Grant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to reduce the burden of administration on rural businesses. [42588]

**Mr Prisk:** Rural economies have a greater reliance on small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and this means it is especially important that the administrative burden is proportionate and fair if they are to thrive.

All Ministers in Government are committed to this. Rural businesses will benefit from a number of initiatives I am taking, such as amending the Companies Act to bring small company audit rules in line with the EU minimum in 2012, saving UK companies up to £40 million in unnecessary audit fees.

In addition, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs have commissioned research to reduce the regulatory burdens on very small businesses by examining how environmental regulation impacts on micro businesses, including those in rural areas, and how it can be designed in ways that minimises the burden while still achieving environmental outcomes.

## Departmental Public Bodies

**Tessa Jowell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10WS, on the public bodies reform programme, what estimate he has made of the savings to his Department net of costs incurred in the assumption of additional departmental responsibilities to accrue from *(a)* the abolition of 22 public bodies within his Department's area of responsibility, *(b)* the merger of five such bodies and *(c)* the change in function of one such body. [48136]

**Mr Davey:** On 16 March 2011 the Minister for the Cabinet Office issued a written ministerial statement updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that Departments estimate that cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

I anticipate cumulative administrative budget savings from those public bodies sponsored by BIS which are undergoing structural reforms to be £737 million over the spending review period, with additional costs of transition including redundancies to be funded from the Department's programme budgets. Overall administrative cost reductions from all of BIS's public bodies are estimated to be £882 million over the spending review period.

## Regulation

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what regulations his Department introduced between 9 and 28 February 2011. [47148]

**Mr Prisk:** Between 9 February and 28 February 2011 BIS introduced seven regulations. These are:

The Registrar of Companies (Fees) (Companies, Overseas Companies and Limited Liability Partnerships) (Amendment) Regulations 2011;

The Registrar of Companies (Fees) (Limited Partnerships) (Amendment) Regulations 2011;

The Registrar of Companies (Fees) (European Economic Interest Grouping) (Amendment) Regulations 2011;

The Patents County Court (Financial Limits) Order 2011;

The Employment Equality (Repeal of Retirement Age Provisions) Regulations 2011;

The Student Fees (Amounts) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011;

The Export Control (Amendment) Order 2011.

## Foundation Courses: Universities

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which universities in England offer foundation degrees; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of such degrees in increasing access to university education. [47451]

**Mr Willetts:** Data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record show that 42,330 entrants were registered on foundation degree courses with 97 English higher education institutions (HEIs) in academic year 2009/10, as shown in the following table.

With almost 100,000 students studying foundation degrees in 2009/10, such courses are now a significant part of the higher education landscape, alongside long-established HE qualifications such as the Higher National Diploma. These qualifications play a key role in helping to equip the current and the future work force with the associate professional and technician-level skills that will play an important role in delivering economic growth.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England produces an annual report on foundation degree key statistics, describing the key characteristics of courses and students. The latest report showed that of those students registered at an HEI, and gaining their foundation degree award in 2007/08, 59% of students who studied full-time and 42% of those who studied part-time went on to study for an honours degree the following year.

*Foundation degree entrants[1] by higher education institution—English higher education institutions academic year 2009/10*

| *Higher education institution* | *Entrants* |
|---|---|
| Open University | 3,410 |
| University of Plymouth | 2,935 |
| University of Central Lancashire | 1,825 |
| University of Teesside | 1,245 |
| Staffordshire University | 1,200 |
| University of the Arts, London | 1,125 |
| University of Greenwich | 1,065 |
| University of Kent | 1,020 |
| University of Sunderland | 935 |
| University of Hertfordshire | 900 |
| University of Brighton | 885 |
| University of Essex | 880 |
| University of Huddersfield | 855 |
| Edge Hill University | 835 |
| Bournemouth University | 830 |
| Anglia Ruskin University | 805 |
| Thames Valley University | 805 |
| Kingston University | 795 |
| University of the West of England, Bristol | 780 |
| University of Worcester | 640 |
| University Campus Suffolk | 640 |
| Buckinghamshire New University | 605 |
| University of Wolverhampton | 600 |
| University of Chester | 590 |
| De Montfort University | 590 |
| University of Bedfordshire | 585 |
| University of Northampton | 585 |
| University College Birmingham | 555 |
| Canterbury Christ Church University | 550 |
| Bath Spa University | 510 |
| London South Bank University | 490 |
| London Metropolitan University | 475 |
| Oxford Brookes University | 470 |
| University of Derby | 450 |
| University of Cumbria | 440 |
| University of Bolton | 405 |
| Manchester Metropolitan University | 400 |
| University of East Anglia | 400 |
| University of Portsmouth | 365 |
| Middlesex University | 340 |
| Birmingham City University | 335 |
| University of Bath | 330 |
| Harper Adams University College | 320 |
| Sheffield Hallam University | 305 |
| Nottingham Trent University | 300 |
| University of Birmingham | 300 |
| Arts University College at Bournemouth | 280 |

*Foundation degree entrants[1] by higher education institution—English higher education institutions academic year 2009/10*

| *Higher education institution* | *Entrants* |
|---|---|
| Southampton Solent University | 275 |
| University of Hull | 275 |
| Leeds Metropolitan University | 250 |
| University of Gloucestershire | 245 |
| Liverpool John Moores University | 245 |
| Aston University | 245 |
| University of Northumbria at Newcastle | 235 |
| University of Salford | 230 |
| York St John University | 220 |
| University of East London | 220 |
| University of Chichester | 210 |
| University of Winchester | 205 |
| Birkbeck College | 205 |
| Ravensbourne College of Design and Communication | 200 |
| University of Leicester | 190 |
| Conservatoire for Dance and Drama | 190 |
| University of Bradford | 185 |
| University of Lincoln | 175 |
| Newman University College | 150 |
| Roehampton University | 150 |
| Coventry University | 150 |
| Norwich University College of the Arts | 140 |
| City University | 135 |
| University of Southampton | 130 |
| St Marys University College, Twickenham | 110 |
| University of Warwick | 110 |
| St Georges Hospital Medical School | 100 |
| Writtle College | 100 |
| Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln | 95 |
| Liverpool Hope University | 95 |
| University of Westminster | 90 |
| University College Plymouth St Mark and St John | 85 |
| University of Sussex | 80 |
| Leeds Trinity University College | 75 |
| University for the Creative Arts | 65 |
| University of Leeds | 60 |
| Institute of Education | 55 |
| Royal Agricultural College | 50 |
| University of Reading | 45 |
| Leeds College of Music | 45 |
| University of Surrey | 35 |
| University of Bristol | 30 |
| Royal Northern College of Music | 25 |
| University of Lancaster | 25 |
| Queen Mary and Westfield College | 25 |
| Royal Veterinary College | 25 |
| University of Sheffield | 25 |
| Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance | 20 |
| Heythrop College | 15 |
| University of York | 10 |
| Total English HEIs | 42,330 |

[1] Covers entrants of all domiciles to both full-time and part-time foundation degree courses.

*Note*:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

*Source*:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record.

## Higher Education

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many university spin-offs were established by each higher education institution in each of the last five years; and how many such spin-offs were active three years after their establishment. [47432]

**Mr Willetts:** Data on the number of university spin-offs are collected by the Higher Education-Business and Community Interaction survey (HE-BCI), which is currently conducted by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Table 1 shows (a) the number of formal university spin-offs and (b) the number of formal university spin-offs still active after three years, for each UK higher education institution (HEI).

*Table 1: Number of spin-offs, by higher education institution, 2005-06 to 2009-10[1, 2, 3]*

| | *(a) Formal spin-offs established* | | | | | *(b) Formal spin-offs still active after three years* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Institution* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
| Cranfield University | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| Royal College of Art | 1 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 13 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Bishop Grosseteste University College, Lincoln | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Darlington College of Arts | 0 | 1 | — | — | — | 0 | 0 | — | — | — |
| University College Falmouth | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| University of Winchester | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| University of the Arts London | 3 | 2 | 3 | 20 | 32 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| University of Northampton | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ravensbourne | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bournemouth University | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Coventry University | 0 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 10 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 10 |
| University of Derby | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| University of East London | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| University of Greenwich | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |

*Table 1: Number of spin-offs, by higher education institution, 2005-06 to 2009-10[1, 2, 3]*

| | (a) Formal spin-offs established | | | | | (b) Formal spin-offs still active after three years | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Institution* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
| University of Hertfordshire | 0 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| University of Huddersfield | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kingston University | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Leeds Metropolitan University | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Liverpool John Moores University | 6 | 11 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 12 | 13 | 13 | 9 | 6 |
| Manchester Metropolitan University | 4 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Middlesex University | 1 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| De Montfort University | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 6 |
| University of Northumbria at Newcastle | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nottingham Trent University | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| Oxford Brookes University | 0 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| University of Plymouth | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| University of Portsmouth | 3 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Sheffield Hallam University | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 2 |
| London South Bank University | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Staffordshire University | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| University of Sunderland | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Teesside University | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| The University of West London | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| University of the West of England, Bristol | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| University of Chichester | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| University of Westminster | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| University of Wolverhampton | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 |
| University of Wales, Newport | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Glyndwr University | 3 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 0 |
| University of Wales Institute, Cardiff | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| University of Glamorgan | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 6 |
| Swansea Metropolitan University | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| Trinity University College | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| University of Abertay Dundee | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Queen Margaret University Edinburgh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Robert Gordon University | 6 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| University of the West of Scotland | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Glasgow Caledonian University | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Edinburgh Napier University | 0 | 11 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 0 |
| Aston University | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 9 |
| University of Bath | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 6 |

*Table 1: Number of spin-offs, by higher education institution, 2005-06 to 2009-10*[1, 2, 3]

| | (a) Formal spin-offs established | | | | | (b) Formal spin-offs still active after three years | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Institution* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
| University of Birmingham | 7 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 23 | 20 | 20 | 25 | 20 |
| University of Bradford | 1 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 6 |
| University of Bristol | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 25 | 18 | 18 | 22 | 24 |
| Brunel University | 1 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 5 |
| University of Cambridge | 8 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 30 | 34 | 51 | 55 | 48 |
| City University, London | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| University of Durham | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 17 | 17 | 12 | 16 | 15 |
| University of East Anglia | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| University of Essex | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| University of Exeter | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 10 |
| University of Hull | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 6 |
| Keele University | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| University of Kent | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Lancaster University | 4 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 10 | 12 |
| University of Leeds | 4 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 27 | 26 | 19 | 25 | 23 |
| University of Leicester | 0 | 16 | 16 | 17 | 17 | 6 | 10 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| University of Liverpool | 10 | 7 | 1 | 20 | 4 | 14 | 11 | 20 | 14 | 18 |
| Birkbeck College | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Goldsmiths College, University of London | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Imperial College London | 10 | 13 | 15 | 2 | 4 | 53 | 42 | 63 | 64 | 70 |
| Kings College London | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 15 | 14 | 16 | 15 |
| Queen Mary, University of London | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| Royal Holloway, University of London | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Royal Veterinary College | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| St George's Hospital Medical School | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| School of Pharmacy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| University College London | 3 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 27 | 31 | 29 | 30 | 30 |
| Loughborough University | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 15 | 17 | 15 | 15 |
| University of Newcastle upon Tyne | 2 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 12 | 15 | 11 | 13 | 15 |
| University of Nottingham | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 15 | 17 | 13 | 17 |
| University of Oxford | 7 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 42 | 45 | 43 | 38 | 39 |
| University of Reading | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| University of Salford | 1 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 9 | 13 | 13 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| University of Sheffield | 6 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 33 | 42 | 46 | 49 | 46 |
| University of Southampton | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 15 | 17 | 17 | 15 | 14 |
| University of Surrey | 0 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 10 | 9 | 12 | 10 |
| University of Sussex | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 |
| University of Warwick | 10 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 14 | 11 | 18 | 20 | 15 |
| University of York | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 14 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| University of Edinburgh | 3 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 24 | 34 | 38 | 54 | 57 |
| University of Glasgow | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 11 | 14 | 15 | 13 |

*Table 1: Number of spin-offs, by higher education institution, 2005-06 to 2009-10*[1, 2, 3]

| | *(a) Formal spin-offs established* | | | | | *(b) Formal spin-offs still active after three years* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Institution* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
| University of Strathclyde | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 30 | 35 | 33 | 34 | 33 |
| University of Aberdeen | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 14 | 14 | 18 | 22 | 23 |
| Heriot-Watt University | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 13 | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| University of Dundee | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 14 | 16 | 17 | 19 | 15 |
| University of St Andrews | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| University of Wales, Trinity Saint David | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Aberystwyth University | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 5 |
| Bangor University | 2 | 5 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 5 |
| Cardiff University | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 18 | 19 | 19 | 23 | 26 |
| Swansea University | 6 | 9 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 11 | 14 | 12 |
| Queen's University Belfast | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 29 | 35 | 34 | 33 | 35 |
| University of Ulster | 0 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 10 | 14 | 14 | 13 |
| Institute of Cancer Research | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| University of Manchester | 4 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 32 | 32 | 34 | 35 |
| Total | 186 | 226 | 219 | 215 | 273 | 746 | 844 | 923 | 976 | 969 |

[1] Spin-offs include those with some HEI ownership.

[2] 2005/06 to 2007/08 data collected by HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England); 2008/09 to 2009/10 by HESA.

[3] HEI's not listed had no spin-offs recorded in the last five years.

*Source:*

Higher Education-Business and Community Interaction survey (HE-BCI).

### Higher Education: Admissions

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to write to state school pupils to encourage them to apply to particular universities; to which universities he plans to encourage applications; and if he will make a statement. [47433]

**Mr Willetts:** We are considering a range of options that might help prompt able young people to consider and apply to university, and to achieve their full potential.

This Government are committed to widening participation and fair access to higher education. We are establishing a new framework, with increased responsibility on universities to widen participation. Universities wanting to charge more than a £6,000 annual graduate contribution will have to demonstrate what more they will do to attract more students from disadvantaged backgrounds through outreach activities, targeted scholarships and other financial support. The Director of the Office for Fair Access issued guidance to universities on 8 March setting out his expectations of what Access Agreements should cover. Universities wanting to charge more than a £6,000 graduate contribution will also have to participate in the new National Scholarships Programme, which will be worth £150 million by 2014-15.

**Margot James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what minimum UCAS tariff score he is setting for entrants to university, in line with the recommendation made by Lord Browne in his review. [47531]

**Mr Willetts:** Lord Browne's recommendations on a tariff were intended to introduce more competition into the system by allowing institutions with higher demand to expand in response to student choice. While we currently have no plans to introduce a minimum tariff score for entry to higher education, we are interested in exploring whether there could be some categories of students with higher UCAS scores for whom a tariff approach could work. But decisions about admission to university will remain a matter for individual universities, and not for Government. We will set out proposals in the forthcoming White Paper.

### Office of Fair Access: Universities

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which universities have not met the access benchmarks agreed with the Office of Fair Access in each year since that Office's inception; and if he will make a statement. [47452]

**Mr Willetts:** This is a matter for the director of Fair Access. I have asked him to write to the hon. Member and place a copy of his response in the Libraries of the House.

To date, Office of Fair Access (OFFA) has published sector level summary information on progress on milestones. This information is available in the relevant annual reports describing monitoring outcomes, available at:

www.offa.org.uk

From September 2012, the director of Fair Access will assess annually the progress made by each institution towards appropriate benchmarks and other measures of widening participation, access and student retention that Higher Education Institutions will have agreed with OFFA through their access agreements. OFFA will require institutions to publish a summary of their progress against their milestones and targets each year.

### Post Offices: Closures

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) which post office branches were under long-term temporary closure on 1 March 2011; [47910]

(2) how many post office branches were under long-term temporary closure on 1 March 2011; and how many of these were *(a)* Crown post offices, *(b)* full-time sub-post offices, *(c)* part-time sub-post offices, *(d)* franchise branches, *(e)* satellite branches, and *(f)* outreach branches; [47911]

(3) how many post office branches there were on 1 March 2011; and how many of these were *(a)* Crown post offices, *(b)* full-time sub-post offices, *(c)* part-time sub-post offices, *(d)* franchise branches, *(e)* satellite branches, *(f)* outreach branches and *(g)* under long-term temporary closure. [47912]

**Mr Davey:** The information requested is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. I have therefore asked Paula Vennells, the managing director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the right hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Public Sector: Training

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans his Department has to support the re-training and re-skilling of public sector workers. [44917]

**Mr Maude:** I have been asked to reply.

All individuals, including public sector workers, are able to access the further education (FE) and skills system to re-train and re-skill. The Government's Skills Strategy, Skills for Sustainable Growth, sets out how the FE and skills system will be reformed to better support and improve the skills of the workforce, the performance of the economy and engagement in learning.

As part of this strategy Government have announced plans to make available more apprenticeship places. In the NHS, for example, of the 8,167 apprenticeships in 2009/10, 60% were taken up by the current work force.

### Regional Growth Fund

**Amber Rudd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to inform applicants to the regional growth fund of the outcome of their application. [47756]

**Mr Prisk** *[holding answer 18 March 2011]:* The Government welcome the very strong response to the first round of bidding to the regional growth fund. Applications are being appraised and we aim to make public the outcome of that round and inform applicants as soon as possible.

### Science and Technology Funding Council

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Science and Technology Funding Council; and how much his Department has allocated it in each of *(a)* the last five years and *(b)* the next three years. [47454]

**Mr Willetts:** The Performance Management System (PMS) for Research Councils was introduced in 2005 and has three elements: Delivery Plans set out the key deliverables for the spending review period; Scorecards record progress over the previous months, together with targets and risks for the coming period; and an Output Framework is published annually and includes information on economic impact, knowledge generation and exchange, and public engagement. As part of PMS, performance review meetings are held every six months between BIS and each of the Research Councils and Research Councils UK. A revised process which reduces the burden, but keeps the essence of the system, will be in place for the next financial year.

The allocations to STFC are as follows:

| | *£000* |
|---|---|
| *(a)*[1] | |
| 2007-08 | 573,464 |
| 2008-09 | 623,641 |
| 2009-10 | 630,337 |
| 2010-11 | 651,635 |
| *(b)*[2] | |
| 2011-12 | 538,009 |
| 2012-13 | 519,398 |
| 2013-14 | 516,627 |

[1] The STFC was formed on 1 April 2007, so there are no allocations before then.

[2] The allocations from 2011-12 onwards are not on a comparable basis to previous years because substantial activities will transfer from STFC to the UK Space Agency when the Agency is established on 1 April 2011.

### Science: Females

**Nicola Blackwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage girls to choose science, technology, engineering or mathematics at A level. [46038]

**Mr Gibb:** I have been asked to reply.

The Government are funding a number of initiatives to encourage the greater participation of girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM subjects) at GCSE, A Level and beyond. These include:

Commissioning the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM), and the National Strategies to look at ways to help widen participation in mathematics with a particular focus on engaging more girls (including reviewing the ways in which schools approach how mathematics is delivered);

Identifying resources that will engage girls more in these subjects;

Establishing the Stimulating Physics network to provide support at regional level to widen participation in A level physics; and

The network of Science Learning Centres disseminating best practice from their Girls into Physics action research programme.

In addition, the STEM Ambassadors programme arranges for over 20,000 individuals drawn from more than 1,500 employers to volunteer their time and expertise to help schools and colleges, acting as role models and enhancing and enriching their pupils' understanding of, and enthusiasm for, STEM subjects. Almost 50% of the current STEM Ambassadors are female.

In 2010, more girls than boys were entered for GCSE Mathematics, and AS and A Level Biology.

## Technology Strategy Board

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding the Technology Strategy Board allocated to each *(a)* university and *(b)* further education college in England in each of the last five years; how much it plans to allocate in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [44986]

**Mr Willetts** *[holding answer 8 March 2011]*: The Executive Technology Strategy Board was established as an non-departmental public Body in July 2007. Technology Strategy Board grant funding to individual universities and further education colleges in England is detailed as follows although it should be noted that funding announced in a given year will often support activities over subsequent years, usually no more than three years.

Future allocations cannot however be specified as grant funding is awarded to business led research projects on the basis of their technical and economic case, and there is no pre-allocation of funds for collaborations with the knowledge base.

| *2008* | *£* |
|---|---|
| *Universities* | |
| Anglia Ruskin University | 324,508 |
| Aston University | 164,835 |
| Birkbeck, University of London | 41,144 |
| Birmingham City University | 374,571 |
| Bournemouth University | 111,208 |
| Brunel University | 704,169 |
| Buckinghamshire New University | 139,344 |
| City University | 114,610 |
| Coventry University | 600,568 |
| Cranfield University | 1,364,165 |
| De Montfort University | 1,372,509 |
| Heriot-Watt University | 290,539 |
| Imperial College London | 2,664,490 |
| Keele University | 78,793 |
| Kingston University | 358,260 |
| Lancaster University | 282,107 |
| Liverpool John Moores University | 661,897 |
| London Metropolitan University | 124,880 |
| London South Bank University | 555,268 |
| Loughborough University | 1,091,557 |
| Manchester Metropolitan University | 411,831 |
| Newcastle University | 805,633 |
| Nottingham Trent University | 408,302 |
| Oxford Brookes University | 516,960 |
| Sheffield Hallam University | 269,098 |
| Staffordshire University | 271,313 |
| Teesside University | 473,528 |
| The Open University | 84,199 |
| The University of Birmingham | 1,394,235 |
| The University of Bolton | 539,726 |
| The University of Huddersfield | 218,130 |
| The University of Hull | 148,642 |
| The University of Liverpool | 2,433,673 |
| The University of Manchester | 1,248,459 |
| The University of Northampton | 323,141 |
| The University of Nottingham | 2,238,492 |
| The University of Reading | 813,192 |
| The University of Sheffield | 2,414,117 |
| The University of Southampton | 1,774,408 |
| The University of Sussex | 389,176 |
| The University of Warwick | 491,385 |
| University College London | 1,641,422 |
| University of Bath | 1,263,502 |
| University of Bradford | 637,045 |
| University of Brighton | 877,306 |
| University of Bristol | 1,443,909 |
| University of Cambridge | 1,066,674 |
| University of Central Lancashire | 133,089 |
| University of Cumbria | 58,664 |
| University of Derby | 70,517 |
| University of Durham | 656,232 |
| University of East London | 202,947 |
| University of Exeter | 1,026,546 |
| University of Gloucestershire | 609,182 |
| University of Greenwich | 399,040 |
| University of Hertfordshire | 512,887 |
| University of Kent | 200,465 |
| University of Leeds | 1,628,159 |
| University of Leicester | 196,830 |
| University of Lincoln | 122,914 |
| University of London | 652,169 |
| University of Northumbria at Newcastle | 216,736 |
| University of Oxford | 74,713 |
| University of Plymouth | 421,912 |
| University of Portsmouth | 351,870 |
| University of Salford | 69,539 |
| University of Surrey | 443,901 |
| University of the West of England Bristol | 742,354 |
| University of Warwick | 474,801 |
| University of Westminster | 171,024 |
| University of Wolverhampton | 990,248 |
| Total | 46,443,659 |
| | |
| *FE colleges* | |
| Hereward College | 23,000 |
| Kingston College | 71,704 |
| London College of Fashion | 2,900 |
| Peterborough Regional College | 51,283 |
| Runshaw College | 68,044 |
| West Nottinghamshire College | 51,283 |
| Total | 245,214 |

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff were employed by the Technology Strategy Board in each of the last three years; how many he expects to be employed in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [45997]

**Mr Willetts** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]*: The Technology Strategy Board employs both permanent staff, and secondees and interims from business. Breakdown of staff numbers is as follows:

| | *Payroll employees* | *Secondees and interim appointments* |
|---|---|---|
| March 2009 | 62 | 41 |
| March 2010 | 98 | 24 |
| March 2011 | 101 | 35 |

While the Technology Strategy Board will have a reduced administrative budget in future years, we cannot specify the number of staff that will be employed over the next three years or the balance between permanent staff and secondees and interims however as this will have to reflect the nature of its programmes going forward including delivery of new activities such as Technology and Innovation Centres.

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses received funding from the Technology Strategy Board in each of the last three years; how many he expects to receive funding in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [45998]

**Mr Willetts** *[holding answer 14 March 2011]:* During the period 2008-10 the Technology Strategy Board provided collaborative Research & Development funding to over 1,700 individual businesses. In addition, over 1,300 individual businesses have participated in Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) managed by the Technology Strategy Board. However, funding for KTPs goes to the academic partner in the partnership, with the businesses involved paying their own costs.

It will not be possible to specify the number of businesses that will receive funding in future years however, as this is allocated through a competitive process with collaborative R&D projects ranging in scale from £10,000 to £100 million.

### Trade: Somalia

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the potential effects of Somali piracy on UK trade. [47290]

**Mr Prisk:** It is not possible to make an effective assessment of the potential effects of Somali piracy on UK trade. Many companies will have taken steps to respond to the threat to their goods posed by the piracy, leading to an increase in the costs of shipping. Some shipments have been rerouted to the west coast of Africa. However, decisions have been made on a case by case basis by the companies concerned.

During 2010, approximately 23,000 ships, with $952 billion of trade transited the Gulf of Aden. Of these ships fewer than 0.01% were hijacked.

### Veterinary Medicine

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many places to study for veterinary science qualifications are available in universities in England in the academic year 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [47455]

**Mr Willetts:** This information is not available, we do not plan for the number of students at a course or subject level. The actual number of places on veterinary courses will depend on the decisions of individual universities. We expect the total number of places on all courses in 2011/12 to be broadly similar to 2010/11.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Tuesday 22 March 2011*

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Anti-Semitism

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had since May 2010 with *(a)* the First Minister and *(b)* the Deputy First Minister on steps taken by the Northern Ireland Executive to combat anti-Semitism in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [47685]

**Mr Swire:** The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Shropshire (Mr Paterson), and I have not had any such discussions as these are devolved matters.

The Office of the First and Deputy First Minister's vision for racial equality and good relations is set out at:

http://www.ofmdfmni.gov.uk/index/equality/race.htm

### Bill of Rights

**Ms Ritchie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent progress he has made on the establishment of a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [47728]

**Mr Swire:** The lack of consensus in Northern Ireland on the issue of a Bill of Rights remains a considerable barrier to further progress. Northern Ireland Office Ministers and officials will continue to have discussions with interested parties and consider how best to take matters forward in the coming months.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Departmental Lighting

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has installed motion-sensitive energy-saving lighting in its estate; and what plans he has for the installation of such lighting. [48330]

**Gregory Barker:** Motion-sensitive lighting was installed as part of the refurbishment of 3 Whitehall Place in 2004-05. Since occupying the building, the Department has enhanced the lighting system, and continues to do so.

The Department also occupies a portion of Atholl House in Aberdeen, where motion-sensitive lighting is installed in some parts of the building but not in the general office areas. The Department does not manage the building but is working with the managing agents to improve its energy efficiency.

### Public Bodies Reform Programme

**Tessa Jowell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10WS, on the public bodies reform programme, what estimate he has made of the savings to his Department net of costs incurred in the assumption of additional departmental responsibilities to accrue from the abolition of three public bodies within his Department's area of responsibility. [48148]

**Gregory Barker** *[holding answer 21 March 2011]:* On 16 March 2011, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude) issued a Written Ministerial Statement updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that departments estimated that cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion would flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

I anticipate net overall administrative savings for the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) of £70,000 per year over the spending review period as a result of the abolition of three of our public bodies. Overall administrative reductions across DECC and its departmental public bodies will be £167 million over the spending review period. Final decisions on where the reductions will fall have not yet been taken by Ministers.

### Departmental Theft

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what items with a value of over £100 have been taken without authorisation from his Department since his appointment; and what steps have been taken to recover such items. [48444]

**Gregory Barker:** No items over £100 have been taken from DECC departmental premises without authorisation. Two laptops and five blackberry devices have been stolen from DECC staff outside departmental premises. In all instances, the police were notified.

### Electricity Generation

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had to discuss electricity market reform proposals with UK electricity supply companies which are not one of the six major UK electricity suppliers; and if he will make a statement. [46356]

**Charles Hendry:** Ministers regularly meet with independent electricity supply companies to discuss energy issues, including electricity market reform.

Concerted efforts are made by all Ministers and officials in the Department to engage all stakeholders with an interest in electricity market reform, including UK electricity supply companies, by attending meetings and speaking at events all over the UK.

Ministers and officials generally have meetings with interested stakeholders on a weekly basis.

### Nuclear Power Stations

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will extend his Department's review of the implications of the situation concerning nuclear power stations in Japan to include consideration of the *(a)* costs and *(b)* timetable for new nuclear build in the UK. [48018]

**Charles Hendry** *[holding answer 21 March 2011]*: The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) has asked the Chief Nuclear Inspector, Dr Mike Weightman, to provide a report to the Government on the implications of the unprecedented events in Japan and the lessons to be learned for the UK nuclear industry.

He has asked for an interim report by mid May 2011 and a final report within six months. The reports will be shared widely and made public.

The detailed scope of Dr Weightman's report will be confirmed as information from Japan becomes clearer. The report will be conducted in close cooperation with the International nuclear community including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Japanese authorities and other regulators to carefully establish the lessons to be learned and will include existing nuclear installations in the UK and the proposed new reactor programme.

### Nuclear Power Stations: Emergencies

**Stephen Phillips:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the plans of the UK's nuclear industry to respond to a natural disaster. [48512]

**Charles Hendry:** The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend, has asked the Chief Nuclear Inspector, Dr Mike Weightman, to provide a report to the Government on the implications of the unprecedented events in Japan and the lessons to be learned for the UK nuclear industry.

He has asked for an interim report by mid May 2011 and a final report within six months. The reports will be shared widely and made public.

The detailed scope of Dr Weightman's report will be confirmed as information from Japan becomes clearer. The report will be conducted in close co-operation with the International nuclear community including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Japanese authorities and other regulators to carefully establish the lessons to be learned and will include existing nuclear installations in the UK and the proposed new reactor programme.

### Oil: Industry

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* senior officials in his Department have had with the staff, agents or representatives of (i) Shell, (ii) BP, (iii) Anglo Siberian Oil Company, (iv) Gazprom Neft/Sibneft Oil Group, (v) Chevron Texaco, (vi) Esso/Exxon, (vii) Total, (viii) Gulf Oil and (ix) Mobil since his appointment; and on what date each such meeting took place. [48331]

**Charles Hendry:** Ministers and officials at the Department of Energy and Climate have regular discussions with stakeholders in the oil and gas industry.

Details of external meetings held by DECC Ministers and its permanent secretary are published on the DECC website at

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accesstoinform/registers/registers.aspx

Details of meetings senior officials have had with staff, agents or representatives of these companies is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Renewable Energy

**Mr Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of electricity generation came from *(a)* renewable sources and *(b)* offshore wind in the latest period for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the proportion of electricity that will be generated from each such source in 2020. [48105]

**Charles Hendry:** In 2009, renewable sources provided 6.7% of electricity generation in the UK, while offshore wind provided 0.5%. In 2010 quarter 3, renewable sources provided 8.5% of electricity generation, while offshore wind provided 1.0%.

The UK National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP), published in July 2010:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/renewable/ored/ukaction_plan/uk_action_plan.aspx

estimates that around 30% of the UK's electricity could come from renewable sources in 2020. It also estimates that 12% of the UK's electricity could come from offshore wind. However, the actual generation from any renewable technology will depend on how the market responds to the incentives that we put in place.

### Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the Answer of 28 February 2011, Official Report, column 242W, on solar power: feed-in tariffs, whether his Department's decision to cap uptake under the feed-in tariff scheme was taken in consultation with the solar photovoltaic industry; and if he will make a statement. [46444]

**Gregory Barker:** There has been no decision to cap uptake under the feed-in tariff scheme (FITs). On 7 February the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) announced that the comprehensive review of the FITs scheme had commenced. He also announced that, alongside the comprehensive review there will be fast-track considerations for solar photovoltaic (PV) installations over 50kW and a short study on farm-scale anaerobic digestion (AD). On 18 March we published the fast-track consultation which will close on 6 May 2011. We are proposing to amend the tariff rates paid for solar PV above 50kW and for farm scale AD up to 500kW.

Any changes proposed will be subject to consultation and Parliamentary scrutiny as set out in the Energy Act 2008.

### Wind Power

**Mr Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of megawatts of offshore wind development required to meet *(a)* UK and *(b)* EU targets for renewable energy. [48062]

**Charles Hendry:** The UK National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP), published in July 2010 estimates that around 13 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind will be required to help meet the UK's target for renewable energy in 2020:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/renewable/ored/uk_action_plan/ukaction_plan.aspx

The Government do not set targets for individual energy generation technologies but takes a market-based approach to energy generation. The actual generation from any renewable technology will depend on how the market responds to the incentives that we put in place.

DECC does not estimate the amount of renewable energy required across the EU, but a summary of EU renewable energy action plans can be found at

http://www.ecn.nl/docs/library/report/2010/e10069_summary.pdf

This suggests that 41 GW of offshore wind is planned across the EU to meet the EU target for renewable energy.

## ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

### Work-based Stress

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what arrangements are in place in the Electoral Commission to *(a)* reduce levels of work-based stress and *(b)* provide assistance to staff diagnosed with such stress. [48196]

**Mr Streeter:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it has a work-related stress policy and procedure and runs stress management and awareness programmes for staff.

Any staff diagnosed with stress are supported via the employee assistance programme, which provides face to face and telephone counselling sessions and online resources on stress management. Staff may also be referred to the Commission's occupational health service following which any recommendations to assist the employee are implemented.

### Third Sector

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, how much the Electoral Commission provided to each charity it funds in each of the last five years; and how much he has allocated for funding to each such charity in each of the next five years. [48282]

**Mr Streeter:** The Electoral Commission informs me that during the last five years it has provided funds for 19 charities as part of its 'partnership grants' programme. Grants were made to these charities under Section 13 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA), to help them run programmes to increase voter registration and democratic engagement.

The commission closed the partnership grants programme in March 2010 but the amounts awarded to each charity for the four years prior to that are displayed in the following table.

The Electoral Commission does not plan to fund any charity over the next five years.

| | | | | | £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *Total* |
| Area 43 | 21,528 | 45,695 | 45,795 | 23,976 | 136,994 |
| Barnardo's | 12,000 | 96,998 | 85,475 | 90,910 | 285,383 |
| British Youth Council | 46,618 | 77,969 | 88,002 | — | 212,589 |
| Council for Ethnic Minority Voluntary Organisations (CEMVO) Scotland | 29,662 | 83,819 | 80,503 | 74,340 | 268,324 |
| Disability Action | 32,314 | 66,921 | 62,359 | 65,035 | 226,629 |
| Leonard Cheshire | 12,702 | 39,243 | 41,991 | 33,387 | 127,323 |
| Outside The Box | 15,260 | 26,250 | — | — | 41,510 |
| Rethink | 18,432 | 71,404 | 114,470 | 64,920 | 269,226 |
| SACOMA (Sahara Communities Abroad) | 42,317 | 80,295 | 79,925 | 35,549 | 238,086 |
| United Response | 10,069 | 29,208 | 58,505 | 30,213 | 127,995 |
| YMCA | 11,989 | 81,330 | 61,005 | 44,425 | 198,749 |
| Fawcett | — | 4,476 | 74,439 | 78,988 | 157,903 |
| Princes Trust | — | 3,732 | 53,461 | 82,194 | 139,387 |
| Scottish Council on Deafness | — | 3,641 | 80,900 | 67,713 | 152,254 |
| Speaking Up | — | 5,281 | 68,657 | 52,142 | 126,080 |
| UK YP | — | — | 94,119 | 105,879 | 199,998 |
| | 252,891 | 716,262 | 1,089,606 | 849,671 | 2,908,430 |

## CABINET OFFICE

### Cabinet Committees: Sustainable Development

**Barry Gardiner:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which Cabinet committees and sub-committees have had responsibility for sustainable development since 6 May 2010; and for what periods. [47870]

**Mr Maude** *[holding answer 18 March 2011]*: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has lead responsibility for sustainable development and sits on the Economic Affairs and Home Affairs Committees to enforce the Government's commitment to mainstreaming sustainability across all Departments.

### Census

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what account the Office for National Statistics took of the proportion of the population who do not follow a religion in preparing the forms for the *(a)* 2001 and *(b)* 2011 Census. [47621]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 22 March 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) I have been asked to reply to your recent question to the Minister for the Cabinet Office asking what account he took of the proportion of the population who do not follow a religion in preparing the forms for the (a) 2001 and (b) 2011 Census. (47621)

A question on religion was included in the Census in England and Wales for the first time in 2001 following the Census (Amendment) Act 2000. Responses to the question helped provide information which supplemented the output from the ethnicity question by identifying ethnic minority sub-groups, particularly those originating from the Indian sub-continent, in terms of their religion. The wording and design of the question and response categories were determined after extensive consultation with users and other key stakeholders and a programme of question testing. Information from the religion question is used to supplement ethnicity data to gain a general understanding of society; to inform service provision and resource allocations; and for fulfilling legal obligations to monitor inequalities.

Consultations in 2005 and 2007 revealed again a high demand for the inclusion of a question on religion in the 2011 Census. The majority of users responding to the 2007 consultation indicated a requirement for comparability between the 2001 and 2011 Censuses.

ONS recognised that no single religion question could meet all user needs and after a programme of research and testing, ONS decided that religious affiliation - the number of people who identify with a religion irrespective of the extent of their religious belief or practice—was again the most appropriate concept to measure. Affiliation is a socially significant indicator in its own right that relates to a person's cultural background and values.

Consequently, the UK Statistics Authority proposed in the White Paper 'Helping to shape tomorrow' (published in December 2008) to repeat the 2001 question as one of a suite of census questions that would allow individual respondents to indicate their identity in the way they consider most appropriate. As was the case in 2001, and in accordance with the provisions of the Census Act, the question is—unlike all other questions in the Census—voluntary.

The question wording takes account of the fact that a significant number of people are likely to choose to respond by indicating that they have no religion. Thus to make the facility for making such a response explicitly clear, the 'None' tick box has been placed first in the list of optional responses.

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on what occasions his Department has had discussions with the devolved Administrations in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and (*c*) Northern Ireland on (i) the company chosen to carry out the 2011 Census and (ii) the operation of the census in those regions. [47801]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 22 March 2001:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking on what occasions discussions have been had with the devolved administrations in (a) Scotland, (b) Wales and (c) Northern Ireland on (i) the company chosen to carry out the 2011 Census and (ii) the operation of the census in those regions. (47801)

ONS, as the executive office of the UK Statistics Authority, is carrying out the 2011 Census in England and Wales. The statutory responsibility for the administration and conduct of the census is not a matter that has been fully devolved in Wales, although the Welsh Ministers played a formal role in determining the conduct and content of the census in Wales. The Registrars General of Scotland and Northern Ireland respectively are responsible for carrying out the census in Scotland and Northern Ireland where the census is a fully devolved matter, and this includes the awarding of contracts.

The National Statistician and the Registrar General of Scotland, and the Registrar General of Northern Ireland meet regularly to discuss census matters and the harmonising of approaches. Such discussions included the approach to outsourcing some services for the 2011 Census.

Although the operation of the 2011 Censuses in the UK is the responsibility of the different census offices, there is close co-operation; for example the date of the census was agreed jointly. A formal agreement between the National Statistician and the Registrars General is reviewed regularly by the UK Census Committee. A copy of the agreement and updates are published on the website at

http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/2011-census-project/index.html

The co-ordination of the census across the UK permits harmonisation of the 2011 Census results.

## Charities Act 2006

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on what date each section of the Charities Act 2006 currently in force was brought into force; how many sections have not yet been brought into force; and if he will make a statement. [47702]

**Mr Hurd:** Various provisions of the Charities Act 2006 ("the Act") have been brought into force either on enactment, or by commencement orders. Section 79 of the Act lists the sections that came into force on enactment on 8 November 2006. The other sections of the Act that are in force were commenced on various dates as listed in the following commencement orders, which are available in the House Library:

The Charities Act 2006 (Commencement No 1, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2007 (S.I. 2007 No. 309)

The Charities Act 2006 (Commencement No 2, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2007 (S.I. 2007 No. 3286)

The Charities Act 2006 (Commencement No. 3, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2008 (S.I. 2008 No. 751)

The Charities Act 2006 (Commencement No. 4, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2008 (S.I. 2008 No. 945)

The Charities Act 2006 (Commencement No. 5, Transitional and Transitory Provisions and Savings) Order 2008 (S.I. 2008 No. 3267)

The Charities Act 2006 (Commencement No. 4, Transitional Provisions and Savings) (Amendment) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009 No. 841)

The Charities Act 2006 (Commencement No.6 and Commencement No.5, Transitional and Transitory Provisions and Savings (Amendment)) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009 No. 2648)

The Charities Act 2006 (Commencement No.7, Transitional and Transitory Provisions and Savings) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010 No. 503)

The Charities Act 2006 (Commencement No. 5, Transitional and Transitory Provisions and Savings) (Amendment) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010 No. 1942)

The main provisions of the Act yet to be implemented are:

Provisions relating to the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) (section 34 and schedule 7). These are due to be implemented later this year.

Provisions relating to licensing and regulation of public charitable collections (Chapter 1 of Part 3 of the Act). There no immediate plans to implement these provisions.

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what plans he has to bring sections 45 to 66 of the Charities Act 2006 into force; what recent representations he has received on this matter; and if he will make a statement. [47703]

**Mr Hurd:** There are no immediate plans to commence Chapter 1 of Part 3 of the Charities Act 2006. Instead, the future licensing and regulation of public charitable collections will be considered as part of the review of the Charities Act 2006, due to begin later this year. In the current economic climate implementation of the Charities Act 2006 licensing provisions has to be weighed against other priorities. Affordability and value for money are likely to be determining factors in whether the new licensing regime is implemented. Whatever the outcome of the review, we want to make it easier for legitimate charities to fundraise responsibly, while deterring bogus collectors and preventing nuisance for members of the public.

I have received several written representations from interested parties about the future regulation of public charitable collections, but as it will be considered by the review of the Act, I do not intend to make a statement at this time.

### Departmental Assets

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether receipts from the sale of assets owned by regional development agencies are reflected in the spending plans of his Department for *(a)* 2012-13 and *(b)* 2013-14. [47412]

**Mr Maude:** My Department's spending plans reflect the Cabinet Office and its NDPBs. The regional development agencies are not part of the Cabinet Office.

### Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department has spent on *(a)* salaries and *(b)* pension entitlements for special advisers in the financial year 2010-11 to date. [46585]

**Mr Maude:** The Government publish on a quarterly basis the names of special advisers by Department, including each special adviser's pay band, and actual salary where this is £58,200 or higher, together with the details of the special advisers' pay ranges.

The latest list, which includes an estimate of the total pay bill including pension costs, was published on the Cabinet Office website on 10 March 2011 at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

### Departmental Secondment

**Graeme Morrice:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many staff from organisations outside Government are on secondment to his Department; from which organisation each has been seconded; and what the period is of each secondment. [47261]

**Mr Maude:** The Cabinet Office central staff database shows 10 staff seconded from organisations outside the civil service. The organisations from which staff are seconded are:

Equality and Human Rights Commission, Environment Agency, Metropolitan Police Service, Big Lottery Fund, Volunteer England, Royal Navy, Price Waterhouse Coopers, House of Lords (3).

The period of the secondment varies from between four months and three years.

### EU Law: Parliamentary Scrutiny

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many statutory instruments relating to the implementation of EU legislation laid before Parliament have not been approved by Parliament in each year since 2001. [47620]

**Mr Maude:** Since the beginning of the 2000-01 Session of Parliament, a total of 381 statutory instruments subject to affirmative procedure have been laid before the House of Commons but not approved by Parliament. This includes instruments which were withdrawn by the Government but not instruments which are currently awaiting approval. I have placed a complete list of these instruments in the Library.

Information about whether each of these instruments related to the implementation of EU legislation could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Government Departments: ICT

**Mr Blunkett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress his Department has made on the proposed G-Cloud computing strategy; and when he plans to publish it. [46215]

**Mr Maude:** The Government have published eight documents on their work to date on the G-Cloud programme.

The G-Cloud documents are at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/g-cloud-programme-phase-2

The following reports are included:

1. G-Cloud Vision
2. G-Cloud Commercial Strategy
3. G-Cloud Strategic Outline Business Case
4. G-Cloud Implementation Strategy
5. G-Cloud Service Management, Organisational Structure and Governance
6. G-Cloud Service Specification
7. G-Cloud Technical Architecture
8. G-Cloud Foundation Principles

The G-Cloud programme is continuing to develop the forward looking Cloud Strategy and Implementation Plan.

### Higher Education: Finance

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether his Department has *(a)* had any discussions with and *(b)* provided any assistance to British universities in securing (i) contracts and (ii) financial support from Libya in the last 10 years. [46073]

**Mr Maude:** Since the appointment of the coalition Government, the Cabinet Office has had no discussions, nor provided any assistance, to British universities interested in trading with Libya. I refer my hon. Friend to the answer provided by the Minister of State for Business and Enterprise, my hon. Friend the Member for Hertford and Stortford (Mr Prisk) on 15 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 306W.

### Ministerial Policy Advisers: Pay

**Chris Bryant:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many special advisers receive a salary of more than £64,000. [48033]

**Mr Maude:** Special advisers with a salary of more than £64,000 are listed in the table of special advisers published on 10 March 2011 which can be found on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

### Public Sector: Property

**Julian Smith:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress has been made on the review of public property undertaken by the Government Property Unit. [40733]

**Mr Maude:** The Government have introduced a new system of national property controls across the central civil and operational estate. In addition, the Government believe there could be substantial gains to be made from a more co-ordinated approach to property asset management in the public sector and will set up property vehicles for the central London and Bristol office estate from 2011-12.

To date, the lease moratorium, introduced in May 2010, has saved around £50 million and has strengthened discipline in the management of the public estate.

### Voluntary Work: Young People

**Mr Frank Field:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether funds allocated and not spent on the National Citizen Service by the end of March 2011 can be carried over into the following financial year. [48259]

**Mr Hurd:** The Cabinet Office does not expect an under-spend relating to funds allocated to the National Citizen Service. Decisions concerning the carry forward of funds from one financial year to the next are made by HM Treasury.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Creative Economy Programme Ministerial Board

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the membership is of his Department's Creative Economy Programme Ministerial Board; and when that board last met. [48453]

**Mr Jeremy Hunt:** The Creative Economy Programme Ministerial Implementation group, formed under the last Government, no longer meets. However Ministers from my Department and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills have recently met senior representatives from across the creative industries, and have agreed to ensure there is co-ordinated action on barriers to growth.

### Arts Council England

**Gavin Williamson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much Arts Council England allocated per head of population in *(a)* Walsall North, *(b)* Walsall South and *(c)* Aldridge Brownhills in the last year for which figures are available. [47322]

**Mr Vaizey:** Arts Council England estimates spend in 2009-10 at 50p per head in Walsall North, £10.87 per head in Walsall South and 50p per head in Aldridge Brownhills.

Additionally, a number of organisations funded by the Arts Council tour their work in the constituency, though their funding is not represented in the figures above.

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether Arts Council England has put in place arrangements to *(a)* assess and *(b)* publish an assessment of the effects on arts and cultural organisations of (i) local government, (ii) regional development agency and (iii) higher education spending reductions. [48451]

**Mr Jeremy Hunt:** Arts Council England (ACE) actively monitors the situation regarding local government future support for the arts, particularly how this may impact on the decisions relating to their new National Portfolio which will be announced on 30 March. The Regularly Funded Organisations annual survey, including details of local government income, will be published in January 2012. Additionally, ACE is supporting the National Association of Local Government Arts Officers (NALGAO) which undertakes a national survey of local government support for the arts which is expected to be published in May 2011.

ACE does not collect data on regional development agency or higher education expenditure on the arts.

### Arts Council England: Expenditure

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he last met the *(a)* chair and *(b)* chief executive of Arts Council England to discuss their future funding decisions. [48452]

**Mr Jeremy Hunt:** I regularly meet with the chair and chief executive of Arts Council England (ACE) to discuss a range of issues. Funding decisions on the new National Portfolio will be made by ACE at arm's length from Government and announced on 30 March.

### Arts Council England: Flowers

**Gavin Williamson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much Arts Council England spent on *(a)* flowers and *(b)* receptions and entertainment in 2009-10. [47785]

**Mr Vaizey:** Arts Council England spent approximately £435 on flowers and £55,300 on entertainment and hospitality in 2009-10.

### BBC

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has to review the commitments imposed on the BBC relating to local news content; and if he will make a statement. [47623]

**Mr Vaizey:** The BBC's commitments to particular forms of content will be reviewed as part of the next BBC Charter review, which will take place before the end of 2016.

### BBC Radio

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the BBC Trust on the funding of BBC local radio; and if he will make a statement. [47510]

**Mr Vaizey:** No recent discussions have been held with the BBC Trust on the future of BBC local radio. The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport will not be making a statement.

### British Sky Broadcasting

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations have made representations to his Department on the proposed merger between News Corporation and BSkyB since the date on which he assumed policy responsibility for the matter. [47574]

**Mr Jeremy Hunt:** My Department launched a public consultation on 3 March seeking views as to whether the undertakings in lieu offered by News Corporation are sufficient to remedy, mitigate or prevent the public interest concerns in relation to media plurality raised by this merger.

We have said throughout that we do not propose to give a running commentary on the process but a summary and analysis of the representations will be published shortly after the end of the consultation process.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effects of his decision on the News Corporation bid for BSkyB on news websites provided by newspapers other than those owned by News Corporation. [47787]

**Mr Jeremy Hunt:** The European Commission looked at the competition effects of the proposed merger. In respect of online news, the EU reported that the vast majority of newspapers' online editions—apart from News Corp titles—as well as other sources are currently free of charge and they found no evidence that this will dramatically change in the foreseeable future. For these reasons, the Commission conclude that competition concerns in the newspaper publishing sector would arise from the proposed merger. Details of the European Commission decision can be found at the following link:

http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/1767&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en

More generally, Ofcom's public interest test report of 31 December includes a discussion of the role of websites in relation to media plurality. A copy Ofcom's report can be found at the following link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/OfcomPITReport_NewsCorp-BSkyB_31DEC2010.pdf

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has any plans to meet representatives of other media organisations before reaching a final decision on NewsCorp's proposed acquisition of BSkyB. [48458]

**Mr Jeremy Hunt:** I will consider all requests for meetings from representatives of other media organisations before reaching a final decision on News Corporation's proposed acquisition of BSkyB.

### Broadband

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what definition of high speed for the purposes of broadband provision he uses. [47321]

**Mr Vaizey:** Government are developing a scorecard to measure themselves against the target of having the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015. The first iteration of the scorecard was published in "Britain's Superfast Broadband Future" on 6 December 2010. Further work on the precise set of parameters to be included in the scorecard is continuing in consultation with industry but will include a group of measures of broadband speed taken from established published sources.

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of local authority areas in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Scotland with access to high-speed broadband by the end of (i) 2011, (ii) 2012, (iii) 2013, (iv) 2014 and (v) 2015. [47327]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Government have not made an estimate of the number of local authorities in the UK that will have access to high-speed broadband by the end of the years specified in the question. Published private sector plans will deliver superfast broadband access to approximately 50% of the country by 2012 and at least 66% of the country by 2015. The Government have made universal broadband a high priority and have allocated funding of £530 million over the lifetime of this Parliament to stimulate private sector investment to deliver the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015.

### Fibre Networks

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will estimate the cost of installing fibre networks to reach every household in the UK. [48117]

**Mr Vaizey:** A 2008 study by Analysys Mason for the Broadband Stakeholder Group put the cost of universally available Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) at up to £29 billion and Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) at up to £5 billion.

### Olympic Games 2012

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Mayor of London on implementation of the Olympic Truce. [48083]

**Hugh Robertson:** The UK will introduce a UN resolution in support of the Olympic Truce this autumn. My Department and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are currently preparing a draft text for negotiation with other UN member states which I will share with the Mayor, and the other Olympic Board members, shortly.

### Public Bodies Reform Programme

**Tessa Jowell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10WS, on the public bodies reform programme, what estimate he has made of the savings to his Department net of costs incurred in the assumption of additional departmental responsibilities to accrue from *(a)* the abolition of 11 public bodies within his Department's area of responsibility, *(b)* the merger of eight such bodies and *(c)* the change in function of three such bodies. [48145]

**Mr Jeremy Hunt** *[holding answer 21 March 2011]*: The decision to reform our public bodies was taken in order to achieve the aims of the Government's public bodies reform programme to deliver greater accountability, reduce the number and overall cost of public bodies and streamline the public bodies landscape.

On 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10WS, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), issued a written ministerial statement updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that Departments estimate cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period. DCMS's share of this is estimated at £206 million.

We expect our public body reforms to generate further administrative savings and will monitor this closely as the reforms are implemented.

### Squatting

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many buildings on his Department's estate were occupied by squatters in each year between 2006 and 2010; and on how many occasions his Department sought interim possession orders to remove squatters from such buildings in each of those years. [47617]

**John Penrose:** None of the Department's buildings were occupied by squatters between 2006 and 2010.

### Theatre

**Ben Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will bring forward plans to increase the accessibility of theatre in *(a)* Ipswich and the surrounding region and *(b)* England. [47330]

**Mr Vaizey:** Responsibility for increasing the accessibility of the arts in England lies with Arts Council England.

Arts Council funding for theatre in Ipswich and the surrounding region was £1,111,844 from grants for the arts in 2009-10 and £3,445,390 for regularly funded organisations (inclusive of Ipswich constituency).

The Arts Council currently invests a total of £105,970,891 in theatre through grant in aid across England. In 2009-10 they awarded £13,811,298 in grants for the arts to theatre in England.

### Tourism

**Alun Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what consideration he gave to including proposals for changes to daylight saving hours in the Government's tourism strategy. [47311]

**John Penrose:** The tourism strategy is a policy document that outlines what the Government plan to do to support the tourism industry. The Government are willing to listen to arguments both for and against daylight saving proposals, but it is a rather wider issue than purely tourism, which is why it does not form part of the tourism policy on its own.

### Video Games: Children

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will bring forward proposals to regulate the marketing of computer games to children. [47515]

**Mr Vaizey:** The advertising of computer games is controlled through the UK Advertising Codes, which are robustly administered by the independent Advertising Standards Authority (ASA). The codes require that all video games advertising should be socially responsible and that ads for games carrying a Pan European Games Information (PEGI) rating of 15+ are not targeted at audiences below the age of 16. Should the ASA find that an advertiser has breached the Advertising Codes, they will not hesitate to take action.

### Video Relay Service

**Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the benefits to the UK economy of introducing a universal video relay service. [47537]

**Mr Vaizey:** No Government assessment has yet been made of any contribution to the economy of introducing a universal video relay service.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) is currently considering responses to its consultation on proposals to implement the revised EU Electronic Communications Framework. Many of these provide useful contributions to the impact assessments we are undertaking in relation to implementing the revised framework, including those provisions aimed at providing services for deaf and disabled end-users.

In addition, the Office of Communications (Ofcom) is currently undertaking a review of relay service provision for hearing- and speech-impaired users of electronic communications. A consultation document will be published in the spring which will include Ofcom's analysis on the costs and benefits associated with video relay services and an impact assessment.

A research report which will help inform that review was published on 4 February 2011 and can be read at:

http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/market-data-research/telecoms-research/ofcom-relay-services/

This report seeks to quantify the value to deaf people of the various options for relay services.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### e-Petitions

**Stephen Mosley:** To ask the Leader of the House when he expects the transfer of e-petitions to the Direct.gov portal to be completed. [48067]

**Sir George Young:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Bedford (Richard Fuller) on 21 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 845W.

The Government have announced their intention to transfer the online petition system to the Direct.gov portal by the summer. Officials within the Cabinet Office are working on an effective verification system to ensure that petitions become a useful and mature tool for engaging with politics.

## ATTORNEY-GENERAL

### HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate: Finance

**Catherine McKinnell:** To ask the Attorney-General (1) what the *(a)* resource and *(b)* capital budget of HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate is (i) in 2010-11 and (ii) in each financial year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period; [46226]

(2) what the *(a)* resource and *(b)* capital budget of HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (i) is in 2010-11 and (ii) will be in each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period; [46231]

(3) under what budget headings expenditure reductions will be made by HM Crown Prosecution Inspectorate following the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review; and by how much expenditure will be reduced under each heading. [46280]

**The Attorney-General:** HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate agreed resource budgets over the spending review period are shown in the following table. There is no capital expenditure budget.

*Resource and Capital budgets*

| | *Resource (£)* | *Capital (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2010-11 | 3,684,000 | Nil |
| 2011-12 | 3,500,000 | Nil |
| 2012-13 | 3,400,000 | Nil |
| 2013-14 | 3,200,000 | Nil |
| 2014-15 | 3,100,000 | Nil |

The principal budget headings under which spending will be reduced across the CSR period are:

| | *£000* |
|---|---|
| Staff costs | 96 |
| Accommodation | 309 |
| Overall administrative costs | 179 |
| Total reduction | 584 |

## PRIME MINISTER

### Departmental Hospitality

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Prime Minister how much 10 Downing Street has spent on the contents of his drinks cabinets since 11 May 2010. [48399]

**The Prime Minister:** Details of the cost of entertainment and hospitality in Downing street and Chequers are published annually.

### British Sky Broadcasting and News Corporation

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Prime Minister how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations have made representations to 10 Downing Street on the proposed merger between News Corporation and BSkyB since his appointment. [47575]

**The Prime Minister:** The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), is consulting on the proposed response and any representations should be made to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

### USA

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Prime Minister on what dates he has spoken directly with the President of the United States since his appointment. [48269]

**The Prime Minister:** I speak to President Obama regularly, most recently on the evening of 17 March 2011.

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Hospitality

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on the contents of ministerial drinks cabinets since 12 May 2010. [48469]

**David Mundell:** The Scotland Office does not have a ministerial drinks cabinet.

### Departmental Plants

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on indoor and outdoor plants and trees since his appointment. [48416]

**David Mundell:** Since 30 May 2010, the Scotland Office has spent £37 on indoor and outdoor plants and trees.

### Departmental Theft

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what items with a value of over £100 have been taken without authorisation from his Department since his appointment; and what steps have been taken to recover such items. [48435]

**David Mundell:** Since 30 May 2010, no items with a value of over £100 have been reported as being taken without authorisation from the Scotland Office.

### Work-Based Stress

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what arrangements are in place in his Department to *(a)* reduce levels of work-based stress and *(b)* provide assistance to staff diagnosed with such stress. [48198]

**David Mundell:** The Scotland Office follows Ministry of Justice policies concerning work-based stress.

Managers and staff share responsibility for assessing and managing stress at work. Detailed guidance is provided on how these actions should be carried out and the arrangements which should be followed.

### Third Sector

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department provided to each charity it funds in each of the last five years; and how much he has allocated for funding to each such charity in each of the next five years. [48281]

**David Mundell:** The Scotland Office does not currently fund any charities. However, in 2005-06, the Scotland Office, in conjunction with the Wales Office and Ministry of Justice, funded a series of reports on devolution from University College, London, which is an exempt charity in accordance with the Charities Act 2006. The Scotland Office agreed to contribute £25,000 over three years to fund the work.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Departmental Food

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the proportion of the seafood procured for *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible that (i) was on the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid and (ii) complied with sustainability standards indicated by inclusion in either the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat or by the list of fish species certified by the Marine Stewardship Council in (A) 2010 and (B) 2011 to date. [45026]

**Robert Neill:** The Department has used the following proportions of seafood in the last two financial years:

| *Item* | *Sourced* | *On the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid* | *Included in Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat* | *2009-10 value (£)* | *2009-10 proportion (%)* | *2010-11 value (£)* | *2010-11 proportion (%)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cod | Atlantic | No | Yes | — | — | — | — |
| Salmon | Organic farmed | No | Yes | 4,284 | 32.98 | 3,300 | 31.77 |
| Haddock | North Sea | No | Yes | 3,014 | 23.20 | 3,480 | 33.50 |
| Smoked Haddock | North Sea | No | Yes | 141 | 1.09 | 56 | 0.54 |
| Plaice fillet | North Atlantic | No | Yes | 2,052 | 15.80 | 1,711 | 16.47 |
| Mackerel | North Sea | No | Yes | 1,148 | 8.84 | 769 | 7.40 |
| Tuna steak | South Pacific | No | Yes | 632 | 4.87 | 290 | 2.79 |
| Red Mullet fillet | Atlantic | No | Yes | 480 | 3.70 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Crayfish in brine | Farmed | Not listed | — | 607 | 4.67 | 107 | 1.03 |
| Frozen prawns | Atlantic | No | Yes | 232 | 1.79 | 319 | 3.07 |
| Smoked salmon | Organic fanned | No | Yes | 194 | 1.49 | 335 | 3.23 |
| Mussels | Farmed | No | Yes | 50 | 0.38 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Scallops | Diver caught | No | Yes | 45 | 0.35 | 10 | 0.10 |
| Anchovies in oil | Mediterranean | Not listed | — | 0 | 0.00 | 10 | 0.10 |
| Crab meat | Pot caught | No | Yes | 110 | 0.85 | 0 | 0.00 |
| — | — | — | — | 12,989 | 100.00 | 10,387 | 100.00 |

The Department's agencies figures are as follows:

*Planning Inspectorate*

| *Item* | *Sourced* | *On the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid* | *Included in Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat* | *2009-10 value (£)* | *2009-10 proportion (%)* | *2010-11 value (£)* | *2010-11 proportion (%)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Prawns | NE Atlantic | No | Yes | 182 | 7.99 | 444 | 15.39 |
| Plaice | NE Atlantic | No | Yes | 468 | 20.58 | 460 | 15.94 |

*Planning Inspectorate*

| *Item* | *Sourced* | *On the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid* | *Included in Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat* | *2009-10 value (£)* | *2009-10 proportion (%)* | *2010-11 value (£)* | *2010-11 proportion (%)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Haddock | NE Atlantic | No | Yes | 663 | 29.14 | 851 | 29.50 |
| Cod | NE Atlantic | No | Yes | 962 | 42.29 | 1,129 | 39.17 |
| | | — | — | 2,274 | 100.00 | 2,883 | 100.00 |

*Fire Service College*

| *Item* | *Sourced* | *On the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid* | *Included in Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat* | *2009-10 value (£)* | *2009-10 proportion (%)* | *2010-11 value (£)* | *2010-11 proportion (%)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mackerel | North sea | No | Yes | 2,693 | 9.59 | 3,104 | 10.67 |
| Tuna | Maldives | No | Yes | 18,720 | 66.69 | 18,720 | 64.32 |
| Cod | Atlantic/Arctic | No | Yes | 6,656 | 23.71 | 7,280 | 25.01 |
| — | — | — | — | 28,069 | 100.00 | 29,104 | 100.00 |

*Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre*

The QEII Conference Centre has confirmed that it is not using any seafood on the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid but could supply a full break-down only at disproportionate cost.

Details of seafood procured by non-departmental public bodies are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on *(a)* salaries and *(b)* pension entitlements for special advisers in the financial year 2010-11 to date. [46583]

**Robert Neill:** For the purpose of clarity, I have separated out information for the pre and post-election periods for 2010-11.

Pre-election, in 2010-11, the Department spent £6,173.31 on salaries for special advisers and £1,443.43 on pension contributions—£7,616.74 in total. Special advisers also received £3,966.67 in lieu of annual leave not taken and £54,300.03 in severance payments. This gives a total amount received of £65,883.44.

Post-election, in 2010-11, the Department has spent £101,778.21 on salaries and £11,226.11 on pension contributions to date—£113,004.32 in total.

By way of comparison, in 2009-10, the Department spent £209,253.98 on salaries and £40,716.97 on pension contributions—£249,970.95 in total. Special advisers also received £2,393.19 in lieu of annual leave not taken and £44.288.53 in severance payments. This gives a total amount received of £296.652.67.

As part of the new Government's transparency agenda, the individual salaries of special advisers in the current Administration are published on the Cabinet Office website; the pension arrangements are as laid out in the Cabinet Office's model contract for special advisers.

Further to the answer of 29 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 838W, I would note that the total wage bill of special advisers in this Department has been cut by 40% compared to the last Administration.

## Departmental Hospitality

**Andrew Griffiths:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much Ministers in his Department spent on meals in restaurants in the course of their official duties in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and in which restaurants; [43778]

(2) pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint) of 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 302W, on departmental official hospitality, what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* venue was of each meal taken outside the Department at events involving its Ministers in the final two years of the previous administration. [43861]

**Robert Neill:** In line with established convention, present Ministers are not accountable to Parliament for events which took place under a previous Administration. This is outlined in the Directory of Civil Service Guidance (volume II page 11)—copies of the guidance are available in the Library of the House.

## Departmental Public Appointments

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which public bodies sponsored by his Department *(a)* have been and (b) are to be closed, merged or reorganised following his appointment; and how many (i) women and (ii) men who are public appointees at each body will no longer hold such an appointment in consequence. [47095]

**Robert Neill:** Following the coalition Government's commitment to cut the number of quangos, the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit closed in June 2010 and the Advisory Panel on Standards for the Planning Inspectorate, the Local Innovation Award Scheme and National Tenant Voice closed in July 2010. Five women and 16 men relinquished their positions. Individual figures for each body are as follows:

| | *Female* | *Male* |
|---|---|---|
| Advisory Panel on Standards for the Planning Inspectorate | 2 | 5 |

| | *Female* | *Male* |
|---|---|---|
| Local Innovation Award Scheme | 1 | 2 |
| National Housing and Planning Advice Unit | 0 | 5 |
| National Tenant Voice | 2 | 4 |

A further 12 bodies are due to close or transfer to the private or voluntary sector by 2012. For each, the exact numbers of public appointees who will relinquish their positions will not be known until closer to the time of reform.

### Regulation

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many regulations sponsored by his Department have been *(a)* introduced and *(b)* revoked since 24 November 2010. [44362]

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what regulations his Department *(a)* introduced and *(b)* revoked between 9 and 28 February 2011. [47147]

**Robert Neill:** The Department for Communities and Local Government is committed to removing bureaucracy and unnecessary burdens contained within existing secondary legislation and other forms of regulation.

In this context, I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave to my right hon. Friend the Member for Wokingham (Mr Redwood) of 24 November 2010, *Official Report,* column 304W, illustrating how the core programme of the Department is deregulatory.

*Subsequent to that answer:*

1. We have scrapped planning rules which forced up parking charges and imposed artificial caps on parking spaces in new homes.

2. We have made changes to the regulations governing homes in multiple occupation to allow areas experiencing problems with homes in multiple occupation to put in place local solutions without imposing unnecessary burdens on the whole of the country.

3. We have cut red tape to make it easier for communities to hold street parties for the Royal Wedding.

4. The Localism Bill has been introduced to Parliament. The Bill seeks to achieve a substantial and lasting shift in power away from central Government and towards local people. Reducing bureaucracy is one of the key aims of this Bill and we have committed to a number of bold and transformative measures in order to achieve this aim.

5. We have also carried out an extensive review to identify the changes that are needed to building regulations and are working up detailed proposals for consultation towards the end of this year, taking forward the spending review 2010 commitment to reduce the overall regulatory burden on house builders.

6. We are also working to remove bureaucratic barriers that hold back local action, and have opened up a 'barrier busting' website for communities to identify them.

All future regulations will be developed in full compliance with the Government's One, In—One, Out rules—meaning that new regulatory burdens we impose on businesses will be given full consideration to ensure that the costs being imposed are offset by reductions in the overall cost of regulation imposed by the Department.

In the period since 24 November 2010, we have introduced 19 new statutory instruments. Most of them relate to minor technical revisions. Having reviewed them, I can confirm that none of these statutory instruments impose new net additional costs on business or the voluntary sector (compared to the policy status quo). Four of them are effectively deregulatory, as they serve to reduce regulatory and administrative costs on local government or business relative to the status quo. In this context, I would maintain that over this period there has been a net reduction in four sets of 'regulations', as a result of these changes to statutory instruments. A table with details of the statutory instruments that have been introduced has been placed in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Security

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons persons not employed by Government Departments or agencies are issued with passes entitling them to enter his Department's premises. [43209]

**Robert Neill:** Passes may be issued to individuals who have valid business reasons for making frequent visits to specific Government sites (e.g. contractors), subject to the usual security checks.

### Disabled Facilities Grants

**Mr Raynsford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department distributed in disabled facilities grants in each year since 1995. [47986]

**Andrew Stunell:** Disabled facilities grants were introduced by the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996. The following table shows the allocations for disabled facilities grant.

| | *Disabled facilities grant funding (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 56.0 |
| 1998-99 | 59.[illegible] |
| 1999-2000 | 64.8 |
| 2000-01 | 71.8 |
| 2001-02 | 84.8 |
| 2002-03 | 88.0 |
| 2003-04 | 99.0 |
| 2004-05 | 101.1 |
| 2005-06 | 103.3 |
| 2006-07 | 120.8 |
| 2007-08 | 126.8 |
| 2008-09 | 146.0 |
| 2009-10 | 156.9 |
| 2010-11 | 169.0 |
| 2011-12 | 180.0 |
| 2012-13 | 180.0 |
| 2013-14 | 180.0 |
| 2014-15 | 185.0 |

### Family Breakdown

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he has taken to reduce the incidence of family breakdown since his appointment. [48122]

**Andrew Stunell** *[holding answer 21 March 2011]:* We have committed £6.5 billion of funding over a four-year period for Supporting People, which provides housing related support to vulnerable individuals. This includes homeless families.

Homelessness can be a driver and an outcome of family breakdown. We have allocated £400 million to local authorities and the voluntary and community sector over the course of the spending review to support them with their work in tackling and preventing homelessness.

We are working with lenders, the debt advice sector and local authorities to prevent repossessions and have made over £200 million available for the Mortgage Rescue Scheme, to help keep vulnerable households at risk of repossession in their homes.

In addition, from April 2011, the first Community Budgets focused on families with multiple problems, will be in place in 16 areas, enabling a more flexible, integrated and cost-effective approach to delivering the help these families need. We intend to develop Community Budgets further and have them available nationally from 2013-14.

## Fire Services

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on arrangements to improve liaison between fire services and other blue-light responders; what assessment he has made of the preparedness of fire services to handle major incidents; and if he will make a statement. [48151]

**Robert Neill:** The strategic defence and security review records Ministers agreed intention to improve resilient telecommunications and the ability of the emergency services to work together during emergencies.

I recently met the Minister of State, Department of Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chelmsford (Mr Burns), to discuss the collaborative work between the fire and rescue service and ambulance services.

In addition considerable work is being undertaken by police, fire and ambulance personnel and departmental officials. This includes, implementation of procedures to enable the emergency services and other responders to make best use of the Airwave radio network during major incidents and the development and refinement of operational plans for dealing with a range of different types of incident. The recent Exercise Watermark is just one example of our work to improve the preparedness of the emergency services to handle major incidents.

## Housing: Construction

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will work in partnership with *(a)* the Community Self Build Agency and *(b)* other community organisations to assist those in housing need to build homes. [47609]

**Grant Shapps:** Self-builders form an important part of the Government's strong commitment to increasing the supply of affordable and sustainable homes and promoting economic growth.

We are already working with the Community Self Build Agency and a wide range of community organisations and other industry experts on a Government-industry working group, which will prepare an action plan setting out the concrete steps needed to make it easier for people to build their own homes.

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what information his Department holds on the number of plots of land available for self-build projects; [47610]

(2) how many planning applications for self-build homes were approved in *(a)* Brighton and Hove, *(b)* Sussex and *(c)* England in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010; [47893]

(3) how many planning applications for self-build homes were submitted in *(a)* Brighton and Hove, *(b)* Sussex and *(c)* England in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010. [47897]

**Grant Shapps:** This information is not held centrally.

## Housing: Finance

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to ensure that funding for the housing market renewal pathfinder initiative from New Homes Bonus funding does not take account of demolition in the pathfinder areas. [47512]

**Grant Shapps:** Councils will be rewarded under the New Homes Bonus for an increase in effective housing stock—either building new homes or bringing long-term empty properties back into use. This empty homes incentive will thus encourage refurbishment of empty properties, which will deliver social and environmental benefits.

Notwithstanding, councils will not be financially penalised for demolishing long-term empty properties. If such a demolition is replaced with a new build property, the New Homes Bonus will still be paid on the new property.

Where an authority demolishes more homes than it builds in a given year, as in regeneration areas, the negative will not be carried forward. The authority will start from a zero base in the subsequent year.

## Judicial Review

**Mr Burley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many concluded judicial reviews of his Department's actions were brought in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; what the name was of the applicant in each case; and what the outcome of each case was. [36936]

**Robert Neill:** The following six judicial reviews were concluded between April 2008 and March 2010:

Slough Borough Council and others *v.* SSCLG [2008] (SSCLG won)

Michael *v.* SSCLG, Salford CC [2008] (SSCLG won)

The Bard Campaign, David Bliss *v.* SSCLG and Weston Front [2009] (SSCLG won)

Pascoe *v.* SSCLG [2009] (SSCLG won)

Mellor *v.* SSCLG [2009] (SSCLG lost)

Hayes *v.* SSCLG [2009] (SSCLG won)

There were 34 judicial reviews in 2008-09 and 33 in 2009-10 respectively. The above list of cases relates to substantive judicial reviews of the Department's actions concluded by way of hearing between FY 2008-09 and 2009-10 and do not include those claims for judicial review that were commenced but not concluded, either because permission to proceed was not granted, or the matter was withdrawn by consent order or otherwise, before a court hearing. The list does not include those reviews which are made pursuant to statutory provisions such as those under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and judicial reviews in which the Department intervened as an interested party.

### Judicial Review: Legal Costs

**Mr Burley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on legal costs associated with judicial reviews in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [36894]

**Robert Neill:** The Department spent £1,433,000 in 2008-09 on 257 challenges of which 34 were judicial reviews and £1,035,000 in 2009-10 on 230 challenges and of which 33 were judicial reviews. A further breakdown of legal costs associated with judicial reviews can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Local Government Finance

**Mr Ward:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Local Government Resource Review will be concluded. [48217]

**Robert Neill:** The Local Government Resource Review will deliver proposals in relation to business rate retention and Tax Increment Financing by July 2011.

### Local Government Finance: Islington

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he has received from the London borough of Islington on its level of central Government support for 2011-12; what assessment he has made of the effects of the settlement; and if he will make a statement. [48454]

**Robert Neill:** The London borough of Islington responded to the consultation on the provisional Local Government Finance settlement for 2011-12 on 9 December 2010. The Minister for Housing and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps), also met the chief executive, leader of the council and others to discuss the provisional settlement on 11 January 2011.

The funding settlement shows that the Government will not shy away from the decisions needed to tackle the public sector deficit that we inherited from the last Administration. It is a progressive, fair and sustainable settlement that helps restore real responsibility and authority to councils.

### Local Government Resource Review

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what remit he has set for the Local Government Resource Review; and if he will make a statement; [44537]

(2) when his Department expects to *(a)* begin and *(b)* publish its Local Government Resource Review. [44538]

**Robert Neill** *[holding answer 7 March 2011]:* I refer the right hon. Member to the written ministerial statement of 17 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 19-21WS, on the Local Government Resource Review. The review will deliver proposals by July 2011.

### Local Government: Translation Services

**Mr Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he intends to update his Department's guidance to local authorities on the translation of documents; and if he will make a statement. [47876]

**Andrew Stunell** *[holding answer 21 March 2011]:* At present, I have no intention of updating or issuing new guidance to local authorities on the translation of documents. Local authorities have the freedom and the responsibility to determine what translation is necessary in their area.

In 2007, DCLG issued guidance on translation to local authorities, which currently remains on the DCLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/580274.pdf

This guidance reaffirmed the importance of the English language and concluded that:

> "In short, we would encourage local authorities to consider whether translation is necessary, for which documents it is appropriate, whether it should be available on demand, and whether it can be done in a way that helps people learn English."

### Non-domestic Rates

**Ms Bagshawe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate he has made of the amount each local authority will collect in national non-domestic rates in each year from 2010-11 to 2013-14; [47727]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 6 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 57W, on non-domestic rates, how much each local authority in England has collected in national non-domestic rates in 2010-11 to date; how much each such authority received in *(a)* redistributed non-domestic rates, *(b)* revenue support grant and *(c)* other grants in that period; and what the net income from such transactions was for each local authority in that period. [47819]

**Robert Neill:** I have today placed in the Library of the House a table which shows the amount of national non-domestic rates each local authority in England estimates it will collect in the financial year 2010-11. The table also includes the amount each local authority had budgeted to receive in *(a)* redistributed non-domestic rates, *(b)* revenue support grant and *(c)* other grants for the financial year 2010-11.

The contribution to the pool from local lists expected to be collected in the financial year 2011-12, for England, is estimated to be £20,845 million. This figure is available only at national level.

No estimates have been made at either a national or local level on the amount of national non-domestic rates expected to be collected in the financial years 2012-13 or 2013-14.

### Non-domestic Rates: Third Sector

**Ms Bagshawe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* charities and *(b)* community amateur sports clubs in each local authority area received mandatory rate relief on national non-domestic rates in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and what the cost to the public purse of such relief was in each such year. [47586]

**Robert Neill:** I have today placed in the Library of the House two tables containing details, at local authority level, of *(a)* the number of hereditaments that were in receipt of either mandatory charity or discretionary community and amateur sports clubs rate relief on their national non-domestic rates as at 31 December 2007, 2008 and 2009 and *(b)* the amount of mandatory charity or discretionary community and amateur sports club relief granted in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10.

These data are as supplied annually by local authorities to the Department for Communities and Local Government on national non-domestic rates returns.

**Ms Bagshawe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* charities and *(b)* community amateur sports clubs received discretionary rate relief on national non-domestic rates in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and what the cost to local authorities of such relief was in each such year. [47587]

**Robert Neill:** Details of the number of hereditaments that were in receipt of either discretionary charity or discretionary community and amateur sports clubs rate relief on their national non-domestic rates as at 31 December 2007-09 are shown in the following table. It is not possible to determine how many individual charities or clubs were in receipt of the reliefs.

| | *As at 31 December each year* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
| Charity relief | 30,000 | 30,900 | 32,100 |
| Community and amateur sports club relief | 1,000 | 1,200 | 1,300 |

These figures are also available in table 5 of the statistical release "National non-domestic rates collected by local authorities in England 2009-10 (Revised)" that was published on 25 January 2011 and which is available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/nondomesticrates/outturn/

Discretionary relief is part funded by the national non-domestic rates pool and part by the local authority itself. For both charity relief and community and amateur sports clubs relief, the central pool funds 25% of any discretionary relief granted and the local authority funds the remaining 75% of the relief. The following table shows the amount of discretionary relief local authorities reported the pool contributed towards i.e. this figure is 25% of the total amount of discretionary relief granted. We do not collect information on the amount of discretionary relief funded by local authorities.

| | | | £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
| *Charity relief* | | | |
| Contribution from the pool reported on NNDR forms | 8,775,000 | 9,065,000 | 10,141,000 |
| Estimated contribution by local authority | 26,325,000 | 27,195,000 | 30,423,000 |
| *Community and amateur sports club relief* | | | |
| Contribution from the pool reported on NNDR forms | 169,000 | 230,000 | 247,000 |
| Estimated contribution by local authority | 507,000 | 690,000 | 741,000 |

These figures are as reported by local authorities on their annual national non-domestic rate (NNDR) returns and can relate both to the year in question and previous years.

### Oldham Council: Pay

**Mr Meacher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to ensure that Oldham council publishes details of all staff earning over £58,000 a year. [47968]

**Robert Neill** *[holding answer 21 March 2011]:* The Government believe a threshold of £58,200 should apply for publication of salaries in local authorities to increase accountability and ensure pay is consistent with levels of responsibility. The Department recently consulted on the use of this threshold in a statutory Code of Recommended Practice on Data Transparency. The proposed Code is intended to complement publication and disclosure requirements under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (SI2004/3391). The consultation closed to comments on 14 March 2011 and the Department is now considering these responses.

### Voluntary Organisations: Playing Fields

**Christopher Pincher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on permitting locally constituted charities or other groups to manage *(a)* village playing fields and *(b)* other local services independently of (i) district and (ii) parish councils. [47570]

**Andrew Stunell:** The Localism Bill will give new rights to charities and other groups to enable them to challenge to take over running local authority services, and help them save assets and facilities that are important to them. In particular, the Community Right to Challenge will enable voluntary and community bodies, local authority employees wishing to deliver the service as a mutual, and parish councils, to express an interest in running a service on behalf of a county, district or London borough council. This challenge may trigger a procurement exercise for the service in which the challenging organisation can bid.

### Waste Management

**Craig Whittaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions his Department has had with representatives of local authorities on *(a)* waste management and *(b)* waste prevention. [47192]

**Robert Neill:** The Department for Communities and Local Government is working with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on its waste review, looking at all aspects of waste policy and delivery in England. Ministers and officials in both Departments are liaising closely on these issues. The Department has had no separate discussions with representatives of local authorities except when dealing with planning issues.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to answer Question 42092, on regulations, tabled on 17 February 2011 for answer on 28 February 2011. [46949]

**Robert Neill:** Question 42092 was answered on 16 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 333W.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to answer question 42086 on regulations, tabled on 16 February 2011 for answer on 28 February 2011. [46988]

**Robert Neill** *[holding answer 15 March 2011]:* Question 42086 was answered on 16 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 333W.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Aggregates Levy

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much revenue accruing from the aggregates levy was disbursed to conservation projects by her Department in each of the last four financial years. [47836]

**Richard Benyon:** The aggregates levy sustainability fund (ALSF) was created to complement the objectives of the aggregates levy in 2002 to reduce the impact of primary aggregates extraction on the environment. The two are separate—in that the levy does not pay directly for the fund.

ALSF moneys have been used, through primary national delivery partners, on many conservation-based projects across a number of themes of the ALSF programme of work. Figures are not available specifically on all conservation type projects; however, the following table shows the amount spent by Natural England for conservation projects for the last four financial years.

| | *Conservation projects spend (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | [1]4,900,000.00 |
| 2008-09 | 3,372,877.58 |
| 2009-10 | 4,239,242.38 |
| 2010-11 | 2,717,264.06 |

[1] Approximate—from Natural England's ALSF annual report

### Birds of Prey

**Nicky Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect of sparrowhawk breeding on the songbird and racing pigeon population in the UK. [47770]

**Richard Benyon:** DEFRA set up a Raptor Working Group in 1995 to consider issues arising from perceived conflicts between the recovery of some raptor populations and their impact on game birds, moorland management and racing pigeons. The group noted in its final report, which was published in 2000, that in its view there was no scientific evidence that sparrowhawks or other birds of prey have had significant population effects on British songbird populations. The group also reported that the evidence showed that changes in agricultural practice were more likely to have caused the substantial changes in farmland bird populations. The report is available on the Joint Nature Conservation Committee website.

In relation to predation of pigeons, a study commissioned by the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (Shawyer, C, Clarke, R&Dixon, N 1999, "A study into the raptor predation of domestic pigeons *Columba livia*") to support the work of the Raptor Working Group, on which the Royal Racing Pigeon Association was represented, concluded that failure to home or straying appeared to be the most significant underlying reason for losses of racing pigeons whereas sparrowhawk attacks were estimated to account for only 3.7% of losses in the UK.

A 2004 study funded by Scottish Natural Heritage and the Scottish Homing Union, suggested there is no evidence that birds of prey cause major losses of racing pigeons at lofts or during races. The report "Racing Pigeons—Impact of Raptor Predation" concludes that much more could be done to use deterrents and other novel techniques to reduce the small number of successful raptor attacks that do take place. The report is available on the Scottish Natural Heritage website.

There has also been a recent review of an exploratory trial of two management practices designed to reduce sparrowhawk attacks on racing pigeons at pigeon lofts which is available on the Scottish Executive website.

### Birds: Conservation

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance her Department issues to bird ringers on the number of rings which should be fitted per bird. [48316]

**Richard Benyon:** Ringing of birds in the UK is regulated through the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) under delegated authority from country conservation agencies (as relevant licensing bodies) via formal agreement with the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). BTO's Ringing Committee oversees ringing activities and regulates permission for the use of any new or 'unconventional' marks proposed for use on birds.

In addition to conventional metal rings, coloured rings (which are sometimes engraved with symbols) are used to enable the identification of individual birds in the field without the need for their recapture. The number and type of coloured rings used varies according to the species of bird concerned and the objectives of the relevant scientific study. Since the purpose of bird ringing is to collect information on the movements and survival of a representative sample of wider populations, it is essential that ringing (or other forms of marking) does not influence the health or behaviour of the birds concerned.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of birds which were ringed in the latest period for which figures are available; and what assessment she has made of the health risks posed to birds by excessive ringing. [48317]

**Richard Benyon:** Ringing of birds in the UK is regulated through the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). According to BTO, 1,032,013 wild birds were ringed in the UK in 2010. BTO's Ringing Committee oversees ringing activities and regulates permission for the use of any new or 'unconventional' marks proposed for use on birds. Since the purpose of bird ringing is to collect information on the movements and survival of a representative sample of wider populations, it is essential that ringing (or other forms of marking) does not influence the health or behaviour of the birds concerned.

BTO works with other national schemes through the European co-ordination scheme EURING. As well as exchange of data, this international co-operation ensures there is regular exchange of information on issues relating to ringing, and bird health and welfare.

## Cheese

**Stephen Phillips:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to support the cheese industry. [48489]

**Mr Paice:** The Government aim for a cheese industry that is part of a profitable, thriving and competitive UK dairy sector.

To this end, we have reinvigorated the Dairy Supply Chain Forum, challenging key representatives to discuss issues and opportunities, the health and future of the dairy sector, and how the industry might address the trade balance and secure its own sustainability and long-term British milk supply. The first meeting in this more productive format was 20 January 2011. The focus of the next forum this summer will be how individual businesses and groups of suppliers and customers through the chain need to establish clear strategies to secure the long-term sustainability of British milk supply and the industry as a whole.

The Government are committed to ensuring that food and drink procured by Government Departments meet British or equivalent standards of production where this does not lead to an overall increase in costs. We want Government to lead by example and to see top quality British produce on public sector plates, which provides value for money, meets customers' requirements and delivers on sustainability. We aim to introduce Government buying standards, which will be mandatory for central Government, by the end of March 2011.

We are establishing a groceries code adjudicator (GCA) to monitor and enforce the groceries supply code of practice (GSCOP). The GSCOP was introduced so that major retailers with buyer power would be prevented from passing excessive risks or unexpected costs on to suppliers. In a period where input costs are rising and forecast to rise further, this is more important than ever. The GCA will investigate complaints from anyone in the supply chain that is directly or indirectly affected by a breach of the code and can deal with them anonymously. This means suppliers from both the UK and overseas will be able to complain confidentially for the first time about breaches of the code. A Bill is currently being drafted.

## Dairy Farming

**Dan Byles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of dairy cows in England in each of the last 10 years. [47633]

**Mr Paice:** The number of dairy cows in England for each of the last 10 years is shown in the following table. This is just one element of the structural changes that have taken place in the sector. The long-term trend in dairy production is towards fewer, larger and more productive herds. The table also shows how the decline in the number of dairy cows has been offset by an increase in average herd size and milk yields. So while the number of dairy cows, in England has fallen by 20% between 2001 and 2010, the level of milk production (at the UK level) has only fallen by 5%.

Dairy cows and milk production 2001-2010

| | *Number of dairy cows in England (thousand)* | | *UK milk production (million litres)*$^3$ | *Average UK milk yield (litres per cow per year)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number*$^1$ | *Number*$^2$ | | |
| 2001 | — | 1,490 | 14,284 | 6,346 |
| 2002 | — | 1,462 | 14,440 | 6,493 |
| 2003 | — | 1,435 | 14,576 | 6,621 |
| 2004 | — | 1,374 | 14,127 | 6,763 |
| 2005 | — | 1,311 | 14,052 | 6,986 |
| 2006 | 1,259 | 1,290 | 13,902 | 6,977 |

| | *Number of dairy cows in England (thousand)* | | *UK milk production (million litres)*[3] | *Average UK milk yield (litres per cow per year)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number*[1] | *Number*[2] | | |
| 2007 | 1,236 | — | 13,619 | 6,913 |
| 2008 | 1,199 | — | 13,319 | 6,943 |
| 2009 | 1,163 | — | 13,197 | 7,068 |
| 2010 | 1 160 | — | 13,533 | 7,301 |
| Percentage change between 2001 and 2010[4] | -20 | — | -5 | +15 |

[1] Sourced from Cattle Tracing System (CTS). Dairy cows are defined as female dairy cows aged two years and over with offspring.
[2] Sourced from June Survey.
[3] Sourced from DEFRA and RPA statistics.
[4] Allows for the break in series in 2006 with the switch to the CTS.

## Departmental Land

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to reduce the size of her Department's estate; and if she will make a statement. [46218]

**Richard Benyon:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Davey), on 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 150W.

## Forests

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when she plans to set up an advisory panel on forestry; and if she will make a statement; [47628]

(2) who will serve on the advisory panel on forestry; [47665]

(3) what representations she has received on setting up an advisory panel on forestry. [47666]

**Mr Paice:** The membership of the advisory panel on forestry was announced in a written statement on 17 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 23WS. It includes representatives of key environmental and access organisations, alongside representatives of the forestry industry. It will draw on a broad range of expertise to inform its work. The membership of the panel is as follows:

Right Reverend James Jones, Bishop of Liverpool (Chair);
Shireen Chambers (Institute of Chartered Foresters);
Dr Mike Clarke (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds);
Tom Franklin (Ramblers);
Stuart Goodall (Confederation of Forest Industries);
Stephanie Hilborne OBE (Wildlife Trusts);
Sue Holden (Woodland Trust);
Alan Knight OBE (Single Planet Living);
Dame Fiona Reynolds (National Trust);
Sir Harry Studholme (Forestry Commissioner);
John Varley (Clinton Devon Estates);
William Worsley (Country Land and Business Association).

We received representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals requesting to be members of the panel, and offering advice as to how the panel could work.

## Nappies: Waste Disposal

**Craig Whittaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will estimate the potential saving to the public purse of 10 per cent. of parents switching from use of disposable nappies for their children to re-usable nappies. [47191]

**Richard Benyon:** Using data on the typical use of disposable nappies from the Environment Agency report "An updated lifecycle assessment study for disposable and reusable nappies" (2008), and population estimates for England from the Office for National Statistics, the estimated cost of collecting and disposing of disposable nappies in England was approximately £39.5 million in 2009. This estimate does not include landfill tax.

The potential saving of 10% of parents switching from use of disposable nappies to reusable nappies implied would therefore be £3.9 million per year. This savings estimate does not account for any costs of disposing of reusable nappies, however.

## National Wildlife Crime Unit

**Mr Alan Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding her Department provided for the National Wildlife Crime Unit in each of the last three years. [48100]

**Richard Benyon:** In each of the year 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11, DEFRA's contribution to funding the National Wildlife Crime Unit was £150,000.

**Mr Alan Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the future of the National Wildlife Crime Unit. [48101]

**Richard Benyon:** Discussions about the National Wildlife Crime Unit have taken place at official level between DEFRA and the Home Office and both Departments have agreed to commit a further two years' funding.

## Petrol Stations and Garages: Health Hazards

**Bill Esterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment her Department has made of the potential health risks associated with siting a petrol station within 50 yards of a residential area; [47865]

(2) if she will make it her policy to introduce regulations to prevent petrol stations from being sited within 50 yards of residential areas. [47866]

**Richard Benyon** *[holding answer 18 March 2011]:* All but the smallest petrol stations are subject to control over vapour emissions from the unloading and storage of petrol, in accordance with the EU Stage I Directive on petrol vapour recovery (1994/63/EC). Larger petrol stations in England were also required to fit equipment to minimise vapour emissions from refuelling of vehicles by 1 January 2010.

The EU Stage II Directive (2009/126/EC), which also deals with emissions-during refuelling, was adopted in 2009 and will be transposed into national legislation by the end of this year. The development of all these measures took account of health impacts. Where a planning application is required for the siting of a new petrol station, it is a matter for local planning authorities to decide whether the application should be granted, having regard to the policies in their development plans and any other material consideration.

Copies of the directives are available from the DEFRA website at:

http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/industrial/eu-international/petrol-vapour-recovery-directives/

### Waste Disposal

**Craig Whittaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment her Department has made of the variation in the cost to the public purse in each local authority of *(a)* waste prevention and *(b)* recycling. [47189]

**Richard Benyon:** DEFRA has not made a formal assessment of the variation in costs between different local authorities of either waste prevention or recycling. Costs will vary depending upon local demographics, environments and facilities, and it is for local authorities to determine how best to provide services. The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) works with councils on benchmarking quality of service and performance. WRAP reported in 2008 on relative costs of different collection systems; the report is available on its website.

**Craig Whittaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps her Department has taken to encourage the use of products which prevent waste. [47190]

**Richard Benyon:** Our range of activities to encourage the use of products which prevent waste includes:

Free advice and support for businesses, and consumers on reducing waste. Advice for businesses on preventing waste and saving money is provided on the Business Link website and through the delivery body the Waste and Resources Action Programme. Guidance for consumers about how they can prevent waste through the goods and services they buy and use is on the Directgov website.

Working with businesses to develop and implement a range of voluntary initiatives to reduce waste from their products and services. For example, the Courtauld Commitment with the grocery sector includes work on lightweight drinks bottles and refillable washing detergent pouches.

Setting minimum EU standards for energy using products, and mandatory Government buying standards for central Government procurement. These standards cover a range of environmental issues including waste prevention.

The action plans from the pilot product roadmaps on milk, clothing, plasterboard and windows all include actions to reduce waste.

The landfill tax, which makes it more costly to dispose of waste.

### Water Supply

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make it her policy to enable a local authority to apply for inset appointments to alter the designated *(a)* water and *(b)* sewerage service provider for the area covered by that authority. [47773]

**Richard Benyon:** Ofwat, the water industry regulator, may grant inset appointments to local authorities to alter designated water and sewerage service providers in the following cases:

where an area does not contain any premises that receive services from an appointed water or sewerage company (ie it is 'unserved');

where a customer uses (or is likely to use) at least 50 million litres of water a year (in England) or 250 million litres of water a year (in Wales) at each of its premises and wants to change its supplier (a 'large user'); or

where the existing appointed company agrees to transfer part of its area to a different company (a transfer by 'consent').

It is therefore possible for a local authority to replace a local water company where the local authority owns or manages eligible sites, or if it is responsible for the delivery of new developments.

An inset appointment can only be made for part of an area covered by an existing water company's licence. It is not possible to take over the whole of a water company's area by means of an inset appointment.

The Government are considering recommendations made by Professor Martin Cave in his review of competition and innovation in water markets to reform the inset regime. However, there are no plans to give local authorities roles designating new inset appointees on behalf of premises outside of their control.

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what provision is available for *(a)* business and *(b)* residential consumers to choose the provider of their (i) water and (ii) sewerage services. [47774]

**Richard Benyon:** Business customers with premises that use 50 megalitres of water or more a year (or 250 megalitres if the premises are located in the areas served by water companies wholly or mainly in Wales) can replace their water and sewerage company with an alternative supplier under a new appointments regime. This allows a new entrant to replace an existing provider for a specific geographic area.

Business customers with premises in England and Wales that use 50 megalitres or more of water a year can also switch to a new supplier under the water supply licensing regime (WSL). However, the WSL does not currently permit eligible customers to switch their sewerage service provider. The Government intend to lower the WSL threshold to five megalitres a year within the area of water companies that are wholly or mainly in England at the earliest opportunity. This would increase the size of the competitive water supply market from 2,200 eligible customers to around 27,000.

Household customers (and ineligible business customers) do not have the opportunity to change their supplier under the above regimes. Options for extending choice in the water sector will be considered in the forthcoming Water White Paper.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Alcoholic Drinks: Fixed Penalties

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fixed penalty notices were issued for *(a)* consumption of alcohol and *(b)* selling alcohol to under-age people in each police force area in the latest period for which figures are available. [47596]

**James Brokenshire:** The number of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PND) given for consumption of alcohol in a public place and selling alcohol to under-age people offences by police force area in England and Wales in 2009 (latest available) are shown in the following table.

*Penalty notices for disorder issued to persons aged 16 and over for selling alcohol to under-age people and consumption of alcohol in a public place by police force area and offence, England and Wales 2009*[1]

| *Police force area* | *Total* | *Supply of alcohol to person under 18* | *Sale of alcohol to person under 18* | *Delivery of alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery* | *Allowing consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises* | *Consumption of alcohol in public place* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 63 | 4 | 40 | 3 | 1 | 15 |
| Bedfordshire | 37 | 3 | 29 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| British Transport police | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Cambridgeshire | 36 | 0 | 15 | 1 | 0 | 20 |
| Cheshire | 34 | 0 | 31 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Cleveland | 47 | 0 | 44 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Cumbria | 47 | 0 | 35 | 3 | 0 | 9 |
| Derbyshire | 99 | 0 | 73 | 19 | 0 | 7 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 100 | 5 | 93 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Dorset | 46 | 5 | 34 | 4 | 0 | 3 |
| Durham | 194 | 0 | 190 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| Essex | 110 | 1 | 67 | 8 | 0 | 34 |
| Gloucestershire | 23 | 0 | 22 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Greater Manchester | 152 | 2 | 98 | 12 | 0 | 40 |
| Hampshire | 230 | 0 | 191 | 21 | 0 | 18 |
| Hertfordshire | 50 | 0 | 14 | 4 | 0 | 32 |
| Humberside | 157 | 2 | 78 | 11 | 0 | 66 |
| Kent | 63 | 0 | 20 | 4 | 0 | 39 |
| Lancashire | 232 | 1 | 199 | 4 | 0 | 28 |
| Leicestershire | 140 | 4 | 125 | 1 | 2 | 8 |
| Lincolnshire | 34 | 0 | 30 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| London, City of | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Merseyside | 129 | 0 | 100 | 8 | 0 | 21 |
| Metropolitan | 1,297 | 5 | 345 | 3 | 0 | 944 |
| Norfolk | 26 | 0 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| North Yorkshire | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Northamptonshire | 21 | 0 | 16 | 3 | 0 | 2 |
| Northumbria | 50 | 0 | 38 | 11 | 0 | 1 |
| Nottinghamshire | 70 | 34 | 34 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| South Yorkshire | 328 | 0 | 244 | 14 | 0 | 70 |
| Staffordshire | 52 | 0 | 31 | 3 | 0 | 18 |
| Suffolk | 33 | 1 | 21 | 6 | 0 | 5 |
| Surrey | 56 | 0 | 55 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Sussex | 112 | 6 | 103 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Thames Valley | 165 | 12 | 123 | 3 | 0 | 27 |
| Warwickshire | 33 | 5 | 24 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| West Mercia | 32 | 5 | 25 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| West Midlands | 175 | 1 | 87 | 4 | 0 | 83 |
| West Yorkshire | 169 | 1 | 139 | 0 | 0 | 29 |
| Wiltshire | 51 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 45 |
| England | 4,700 | 97 | 2,837 | 173 | 4 | 1,589 |
| Dyfed Powys | 29 | 6 | 21 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Gwent | 22 | 0 | 19 | 3 | 0 | 0 |

*Penalty notices for disorder issued to persons aged 16 and over for selling alcohol to under-age people and consumption of alcohol in a public place by police force area and offence, England and Wales 2009*[1]

| *Police force area* | *Total* | *Supply of alcohol to person under 18* | *Sale of alcohol to person under 18* | *Delivery of alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery* | *Allowing consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises* | *Consumption of alcohol in public place* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North Wales | 79 | 1 | 67 | 6 | 0 | 5 |
| South Wales | 66 | 0 | 58 | 6 | 0 | 2 |
| Wales | 196 | 7 | 165 | 17 | 0 | 7 |
| England and Wales | 4,896 | 104 | 3,002 | 190 | 4 | 1,596 |

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

## Asylum

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what date she expects her Department to have resolved all older unresolved asylum cases. [47903]

**Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency provides regular updates on performance of the "legacy" cases, including a breakdown into grants, removals and "other" cases such as duplicates or errors, to the Home Affairs Select Committee.

On 2 March, the Agency reported to the Home Affairs Select Committee that it had concluded over 403,000 cases as at 31 January 2011 and is on track to conclude the legacy backlog by summer 2011.

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent progress her Department has made on speeding up the processing of asylum applications. [48005]

**Damian Green:** The average percentage of asylum claims that have received an initial decision within 30 days is 61% for cohorts since May 2010, compared to 46% for cohorts in the 12 months before May 2010. The average percentage of asylum cases concluded (granted or removed) within six months was 53% for cohorts since May 2010, compared to 48% for cohorts in the 12 months prior to May 2010.

Both of these indicators form part of a new framework that measures our progress towards an asylum system with swifter case conclusions and no backlogs, delivered at significantly lower cost to the taxpayer. Through the Asylum Improvement Project we have been testing a number of new ideas to improve the speed of the system including increased use of specialist case owners, tools to improve the flow of decision-making, and a more structured approach to interviews and decisions.

## Asylum: Finance

**Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on the number of Azure cards issued in *(a)* the City of Manchester, *(b)* Greater Manchester and *(c)* the UK. [48384]

**Damian Green:** The number of Azure cards issued and actively being used in the areas referred to are:

*(a)* City of Manchester: 141;

*(b)* Greater Manchester: 96;

*(c)* UK: 2,984.

## Asylum: Scotland

**Mr Tom Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what proportion of asylum seekers living in Scotland were *(a)* granted asylum and *(b)* refused asylum and returned to their home country in each of the last five years; [47960]

(2) what proportion of asylum seekers living in Scotland have live appeal rights. [47961]

**Damian Green:** We have taken "live appeal rights" to mean appeals that are awaiting an outcome (i.e. an unconcluded appeal).

The following table shows the proportion of asylum seekers living in Scotland who were granted asylum, refused asylum and removed to their country or origin. The table also shows the proportion with unconcluded appeals.

*Asylum applications, excluding dependants, proportion granted, proportion refused and removed, proportion with unconcluded appeals, for individuals residing in Scotland, 2006-10*[1]

| | *Percentage granted*[2, 3, 6] | *Percentage refused and removed*[4, 6] | *Percentage unconcluded appeals*[5, 6] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2006 | 34.2 | 31.9 | 0.0 |
| 2007 | 35.7 | 17.4 | 1.8 |
| 2008 | 45.4 | 18.9 | 1.4 |
| 2009 | 43.5 | 12.9 | 0.6 |
| 2010 | 43.1 | 4.1 | 6.5 |
| Grand total | 41.8 | 14.7 | 2.3 |

[1] All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

[2] Cases relate to first Asylum Claims and only include main applicants.

[3] Individuals granted asylum and refugee status, or refused asylum but granted Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave.

[4] Removed includes enforced removals, port removals, voluntary departures, and include persons leaving under various assisted voluntary return programmes.

[5] Unconcluded appeals relates to applicants who have lodged an appeal that is as yet unconcluded.

[6] Data relate to applicants whose last known address was in Scotland. Subjects detained outside Scotland prior to removal will not be identified.

**Mr Tom Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers living in Scotland have *(a)* returned voluntarily to their country of origin and *(b)* been removed in each of the last five years. [48080]

**Damian Green:** The data requested are shown in table 1.

*Table 1: Failed asylum seekers, excluding dependants, residing in Scotland, returned to their country of origin, 2006-10*[1]

| *Year*[2] | *Voluntary departures*[3, 4] | *Enforced removals*[4] | *Total*[4] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2006 | 133 | 206 | 339 |
| 2007 | 118 | 202 | 320 |
| 2008 | 126 | 211 | 337 |
| 2009 | 111 | 217 | 328 |
| 2010 | 114 | [illegible] | 321 |
| Grand total | 602 | 1,043 | 1,645 |

[1] All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

[2] Year relates to the year of removal.

[3] Voluntary departures includes subjects removed via various assisted voluntary return programmes as well as voluntary departures.

[4] Data relates to applicants whose last known address was in Scotland. Subjects detained outside Scotland prior to removal will not be identified.

## Avi Benayahu

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department held on the identity to be used by Mr Avi Benayahu for entering the UK prior to his entry; and if she will make a statement. [47514]

**Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency does not routinely comment on individual cases.

## Children: Protection

**Chris Heaton-Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how information on the effect on child welfare of the new return process will be *(a)* collected and *(b)* analysed. [47778]

**Damian Green:** An evaluation of the new family returns processes is planned for this year.

The aims of the evaluation are to:

1. examine the effectiveness of the overall process in achieving its stated objectives and associated Government commitments;

2. support and challenge the new processes in order to improve them, with an emphasis on child safeguarding issues; and

3. promote opportunities for continuous learning and improvement as the new process beds down across the agency.

The intention is to *(a)* collect and *(b)* analyse data, through:

a process based assessment of the various parts of the new process—including interviews with key workers and staff.

understanding the end to end process using interviews with families, in order to gain detailed feedback on: how families understood the options made available to them; child safeguarding/welfare issues; and for those families housed in pre-departure accommodation, their experiences of the services made available to them.

**Chris Heaton-Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information the UK Border Agency holds on *(a)* the health and welfare of children in immigration cases and *(b)* the effects of their separation from their parents has in such cases. [47779]

**Damian Green:** The new process for managing family returns emphasises the importance of engaging with the family and understanding their heath and welfare needs. These will be recorded on a family welfare form which will be updated through the family's progress through the system. If it is appropriate, the UK Border Agency will also seek information from children's services departments.

Where a family has chosen not to leave the country voluntarily, either though an assisted voluntary returns package, under their own steam or via a self-check in return, the UK Border Agency will refer the case to an independent Family Returns Panel, who will advise on the best method of ensuring their return, taking account of the welfare of the children. Under the new arrangements for managing family returns, families without any criminal history would be separated by detention only in exceptional circumstances and after advice had been sought from the independent Family Returns Panel.

**Chris Heaton-Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the UK Border Agency is taking to safeguard child welfare in cases of families separated by immigration detention. [47780]

**Damian Green:** Safeguarding children and concern for their welfare is a consideration in every case where an adult who is known to have children is held in immigration detention. There are three main situations involved. The most typical cases are those where a member of the family is also a former foreign national prisoner and a decision has been made to maintain their detention pending deportation. In these cases care arrangements will already be in place having been made when the sentence of imprisonment began.

In those cases where it is necessary to detain a parent in an immigration removal centre who then states that they have a child in the community, the UK Border Agency will seek to facilitate contact between the parent and child, subject to the wishes of the family, and in liaison with the local authority where appropriate.

Finally, under the new arrangements for managing the return of a family whose members are already together, families without any criminal history would be separated only in exceptional circumstances and after advice had been sought from the independent Family Returns Panel.

## Crime: Motor Vehicles

**Mr Alan Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with representatives of the transport industry on the future of the ACPO Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service. [47989]

**James Brokenshire:** Home Office Ministers have had no such discussions. Home Office officials meet on a regular basis with representatives of the transport industry, including at the ACPO Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service (AVCIS) Governance Board.

**Mr Alan Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department provided to the ACPO Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [47990]

**James Brokenshire:** Home Office grants to the ACPO Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service were as follows:

| *Financial year* | *£* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 200,000 |
| 2009-10 | 300,000 |
| 2010-11 | 300,000 |

### Cybercrime

**Ian Lavery:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has any plans to undertake a study of internet bullying and electronic harassment of individuals in England and Wales. [47729]

**James Brokenshire:** New questions on stalking and harassment will be included in the British Crime Survey from April 2011. This will provide a clearer picture of the incidence of stalking and harassment which involves any form of unwanted online communication or text messaging. The Home Office is also working closely with the charity Network for Surviving Stalking, which recently commissioned research in this area from the University of Bedfordshire. The results will be available in June 2011.

The UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS), co-chaired by Ministers from the Home Office and Department for Education, is looking to implement policies to help users protect themselves and report unacceptable behaviour, including internet bullying.

**Ian Lavery:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on trends in the incidence of harassment by electronic means. [47730]

**James Brokenshire:** The Home Office does not hold information on trends in the incidence of harassment by electronic means. However, new questions on stalking and harassment will be included in the British Crime Survey from April 2011. This will provide a clearer picture of the incidence of stalking and harassment which involves any form of unwanted online communication or text messaging.

### Departmental Compensation

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each (i) agency and (ii) non-departmental public body for which she is responsible spent on compensation payments to members of the public for errors made by such bodies in each of the last five years. [47427]

**Damian Green:** The Home Office, agencies and non-departmental public bodies do not separately identify compensation payments in their accounts. Because this information is not readily available an answer could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

The majority of compensation payments are included within 'special payments' in the notes to the published accounts of each organisation. Special payments are both compensation and ex gratia payments made to members of the public and organisations.

### Deportation: Finance

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on deportations in each of the last five years. [47446]

**Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency annual accounts for 2009-10 can be viewed at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/annual-reports-accounts/

A copy has also been placed in the House Library.

These accounts include the costs of Public Expense Removals, and also of the various voluntary removal schemes which the Agency operates. The gross costs to the Agency of removals between 2005 and 2010 are shown in Table 1; these figures include the total programme costs of the voluntary return schemes including re-integration assistance, flights and running costs. The Agency also receives funding from the EU for its removals programme, and the amounts received and expected from this source are shown in Table 2, which will offset some of the gross costs.

EU Funds received for 2008-09 and 2009-10 remain subject to audit and possible amendment.

*Annex: Net costs of public expense and voluntary removals schemes*

*Table 1: Gross removal costs 2005-10*

*Public Expense Removals (PERs)*

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 2.6 |
| 2006-07 | 20.2 |
| 2007-08 | 22.3 |
| 2008-09 | 27.0 |
| 2009-10 | 27.5 |

*Voluntary Removals Schemes*

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 12.6 |
| 2006-07 | 22.2 |
| 2007-08 | 21.7 |
| 2008-09 | 10.8 |
| 2009-10 | 20.4 |

*Table 2: EU Funding for Removals 2005-10*

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 2.0 |
| 2006-07 | 3.2 |
| 2007-08 | 3.2 |
| 2008-09 | 6.3 |
| 2009-10 | 4.1 |

*Note:*

EU funding for 2008-09 and 2009-10 is subject to audit and possible amendment.

### Detention Centres: Children

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to ensure that children and families do not become destitute as a result of their progress through the new family returns process. [47797]

**Damian Green:** The new family returns process does not change existing arrangements to provide financial support to destitute families with children. Failed asylum seeking families with children may apply for support from the UK Border Agency which is provided under sections 4 and 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

### Drug Seizures: Northern Ireland

**Mr Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what quantity of illegal drugs the Serious Organised Crime Agency has seized in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Northern Ireland in each year since its inception. [47249]

**James Brokenshire:** The majority of drug seizures by weight resulting from the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) activity are made before they reach the UK. Figures for total seizures worldwide are published in SOCA's Annual Reports. The SOCA Annual Report for 2010-11 will be published in July 2011.

The following table contains volumes of cocaine and heroin seized by SOCA in the UK since the Agency was established in 2006. SOCA is a UK-wide organisation and does not publish seizure data by geographical area. A significant part of SOCA's operational activity in Northern Ireland is in support of the PSNI. Part of that support includes activity leading to the seizure of drugs by the PSNI.

*Tonnes*

| | *Cocaine* | *Heroin* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 2.1 | 0.8 |
| 2007-08 | 0.6 | 0.6 |
| 2008-09 | 0.5 | 0.6 |
| 2009-10 | 0.4 | 1.0 |

### Drugs: Young People

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the proportion of children aged under 15 in England who have used cannabis in the last 12 months. [48250]

**James Brokenshire:** The Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use survey among young people in England provides estimates of the proportion of secondary school children who have used cannabis. Latest figures from the 2009 survey show that 9% of pupils aged 11 to 15 years reported using cannabis in the last 12 months. For those aged under 15 the proportion for those aged 11, 12, 13 and 14 was 1%, 2%, 4% and 12% respectively.

### Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to respond to the UK Border Agency consultation on the student immigration system. [47732]

**Damian Green:** An announcement will be made as soon as possible. The results of the student consultation and an impact assessment will be published in due course.

**Valerie Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effects on university *(a)* science and *(b)* engineering departments of proposals to limit the number of non-EU students studying in UK universities. [48022]

**Damian Green:** The results of the student consultation and an impact assessment will be published in due course. We are not intending to impose a set limit on non-EU student numbers.

### Forensic Science

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the written ministerial statement of 14 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 94-96WS, on forensic science, what evidence she evaluated to determine that the size of the forensic science market would fall over the next few years. [48064]

**James Brokenshire:** Falls were expected as past trends showed the market contracting; police budgets previously included ring-fenced amounts to 'build up' the national DNA database and this artificially inflated the market. More efficient practices by forces have also contributed to the market contraction and this is expected to continue.

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to ensure an adequate level of competition in the forensic market following the closure of the Forensic Science Service. [48154]

**James Brokenshire:** There are currently 11 companies, excluding the Forensic Science Service (FSS), offering services through the National Forensic Framework Agreement. This is already a competitive market and we do not believe this will change following the managed closure of the FSS. Our priority is to ensure the continued provision of effective forensic science services to the criminal justice system (CJS). We also want to see a healthy and competitive future market for forensics.

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements she plans to put in place to ensure consistent standards across police forces in the conduct of in-house forensic work following the closure of the Forensic Science Service. [48155]

**James Brokenshire:** The forensics regulator has received support and co-operation for his quality standards from the laboratories (both private and state funded), professional bodies, prosecuting authorities, the judiciary and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), and to date, has not been hindered in dealing with any complaints about quality standards. Although there is currently no need to give the regulator powers to compel compliance with the standards, this position will be kept under review and the creation of new powers will be considered if that is appropriate.

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the cost to police forces of spending on forensic laboratories and associated accreditation following the closure of the Forensic Science Service during the comprehensive spending review period. [48156]

**James Brokenshire:** Police force spending on forensic laboratories is controlled by police forces and police authorities. We do not believe that there will be a need for forces to increase their spending on laboratories as a result of the Forensic Science Service (FSS) closure. If forces choose to increase laboratory capacity these would need to be appropriately accredited and appropriate funding would need to be met from within their existing budgets.

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the capacity of police forces to conduct a greater proportion of forensic science work in-house. [48158]

**James Brokenshire:** Our priority is to ensure the continued provision of effective forensic science services to the Criminal Justice System (CJS) working to the highest professional standards. We also want to see a healthy and competitive future market for forensics. We are working closely with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and other key partners across the CJS to make decisions about how forensic services will be provided once the Forensic Science Service has ceased trading.

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the proportion of forensic work that will be conducted in-house by police forces following the closure of the Forensic Science Service; and what assessment she has made of the potential effects of the Police Act 1996 (Equipment) Regulations 2011 on the level of forensic science work that will be outsourced to the private sector during the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [48159]

**James Brokenshire:** We are working closely with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and other key partners across the Criminal Justice System to make decisions about how forensic services will be provided once the Forensic Science Service has ceased trading. The Police Act 1996 (Equipment) Regulations 2011 deal only with the procurement of specified categories of equipment by the police service and will have no effect on the outsourcing of forensic science work. Proposals for separate services regulations that would require the police service to use the national framework for forensic analysis services to purchase forensic services have currently been put on hold.

## Forensic Science: Terrorism

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the availability of expertise in terrorism events in the commercial forensic science sector. [48161]

**James Brokenshire:** Operational continuity is one of the main objectives of the transition process. Where functions do not already exist outside the Forensic Science Service we will look at the possibility of transferring these functions and expertise.

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which commercial providers will be responsible for the provision of forensic science for terrorism cases following the closure of the Forensic Science Service; and what process she plans to use to determine the selection of such providers. [48162]

**James Brokenshire:** The Home Office is working with a wide range of stakeholders through the Forensic Transition Board to consider options for forensic provision after the Forensic Science Service wind up is completed, with a view to ensuring operational continuity is secured.

## Human Trafficking

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking in accordance with Article 6 of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings to discourage demand for trafficking of people for forced labour. [47132]

**Damian Green:** Discouraging demand for people becoming victims of trafficking for forced labour is an important element of a successful approach to combating trafficking for forced labour. We work closely with voluntary organisations involved in awareness-raising and provide educational programmes in schools emphasising the importance of equality and mutual respect.

The Government are committed to providing effective protection for workers against abuses of basic workplace rights, and to ensuring that reputable businesses are not undercut by those trying to avoid their legal responsibilities.

The UK Border Agency takes robust action against employers of illegal workers and by taking action against businesses that flout the law we are able to crack down on illegal working, one of the drivers of forced labour.

**Mr Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) who is carrying out the review into whether the UK should opt in to the European Directive on Human Trafficking; and what consultations have been carried out as part of the review; [47837]

(2) when she expects the review into whether the UK should opt in to the European Directive on Human Trafficking to be concluded. [47838]

**Damian Green:** The Government decided not to opt in to the European Directive on Human Trafficking at the outset, but to review their position in line with the revised text. That process is now complete and I have written to the Parliamentary Scrutiny Committees notifying them of our intention to apply to opt in.

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures her Department has in place to combat the trafficking of *(a)* people, *(b)* weapons and *(c)* drugs. [48006]

**Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency, Police, Serious Organised Crime Agency and HM Revenue and Customs work together at local, regional, national and international levels sharing intelligence and resources as appropriate, in order to understand the nature of the threat to the UK from all these forms of trafficking and to prevent and detect them.

### Identity and Passport Service: Ripon

**Julian Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* meetings were held with whom and *(b)* other consultations took place on the closure of the Ripon Identity and Passport Service office. [47901]

**Damian Green:** On 18 January 2011, the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) completed a 90-day consultative consultation process with staff and trade unions on the future structure of the Interview Office Network, which includes the interview office at Ripon. As part of the formal consultation process, IPS met with trade union representatives and with staff on a regular basis. Letters were sent to Members of Parliament in whose constituency an interview office was located on 14 October 2010 setting out proposals for restructuring.

On 16 March 2011, the chief executive of IPS wrote to Members of Parliament with a passport interview facility in their constituency and to Members of Parliament and elected representatives to the Scottish Parliament and the National Assembly for Wales who responded to the consultation process. The letter set out the final decision in the light of the outcome of the consultation process. Full details of the restructure and the summary of responses to the consultation can be found on the IPS website at:

http://www.ips.gov.uk/cps/files/ips/live/assets/documents/ION_Summary__responses_.pdf

### Inter-departmental Ministerial Group on Missing Persons

**Mr Alan Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions since May 2010 the Inter-departmental Ministerial Group on Missing Persons has met; who chairs the group; and which Departments are represented in the group. [48103]

**James Brokenshire:** The Government are committed to improving services to missing persons and their families and I acknowledge that successful delivery in this arena requires an effective response across a range of Departments and agencies.

Good progress has been made in taking forward relevant recommendations from the Missing Persons Taskforce report and I can confirm that I have already met with my counterparts at the Departments of Health and Education to ensure we are working effectively to tackle these issues. I am committed to continuing to meet with them as and when there is a need, and to including Ministers from the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Ministry of Justice when required.

### Metals: Theft

**Mr Alan Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the cost to the public purse of metal theft in each of the last three years. [48013]

**James Brokenshire:** The British Transport Police estimated in September 2010 that the total cost of metal theft amounted to at least £770 million annually, covering both the public and private sectors.

**Mr Alan Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with representatives of the British Transport Police on metal theft. [48077]

**James Brokenshire:** I have had a meeting with senior representatives of the British Transport police to discuss metal theft.

### Military Aircraft: Fuels

**Charlie Elphicke:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on the number of road fuel tankers stolen in each calendar month since January 2010. [47517]

**James Brokenshire:** Information on the number of road fuel tankers stolen is not collected centrally. Such offences would be recorded under the classification of 'theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle'. However, the recorded crime statistics are based on aggregate data and it is therefore not possible to separately identify the types of vehicle stolen or their contents.

### Public Bodies Reform Programme

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 March 2011, *Official Report,* columns 9-10WS, on the public bodies reform programme, what estimate she has made of the savings to her Department net of costs incurred in the assumption of additional departmental responsibilities to accrue from *(a)* the abolition of three public bodies within her Department's area of responsibility and *(b)* the merger of two such bodies. [48135]

**Damian Green** *[holding answer 21 March 2011]:* The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Maude) issued a written ministerial statement on 16 March 2011, *Official Report,* columns 9-10WS, updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that Departments estimate cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

Overall administrative reductions from reform of all Home Office non-departmental public bodies are estimated to be £94 million over the spending review period. This figure is based on current planning assumptions.

The Home Office is not yet in a position to estimate net overall administrative savings from structural reforms. The main structural reform will be the creation of the National Crime Agency. The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) will publish a statement shortly about how the National Crime Agency will operate.

### Robbery

**Mr Alan Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the roundtable on crime involving cash and valuables in transit convened by her Department last met. [47987]

**James Brokenshire:** The Home Office roundtable on cash and valuables in transit met on 21 March 2011.

**Mr Alan Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of recent trends in the theft of cash from vehicles in transit. [47988]

**James Brokenshire:** According to industry data for 2010, there were 751 offences against cash and valuables in transit vehicles; a decrease of 29% from 1,060 offences in 2009. This compares to 1,000 offences in 2008 and 1,059 offences in 2007.

### Smuggling: Fuels

**Mr Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what volume of illegal fuels the Serious Organised Crime Agency has seized in Northern Ireland in each year since its inception. [47247]

**James Brokenshire:** It is the responsibility of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to deal with fuel smuggling. The Serious Organised Crime Agency has not seized any fuel since its inception, but supports HMRC's operational activity as required. Collaborative law enforcement activity against organised crime in Northern Ireland is driven by the cross-agency Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF).

### Work-based Stress

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements are in place in her Department to *(a)* reduce levels of work-based stress and *(b)* provide assistance to staff diagnosed with such stress. [48204]

**Damian Green:** The Home Office policy for managing the risk factors of work-related stress is based on the industry recognised Health and Safety Executives Management Standards approach. In addition we have introduced a well-being framework to promote the wellbeing of staff at work. The Department's policy requires all line managers to play their part in reducing and managing the risk factors which lead to workplace stress, and where stress occurs, to identify and address the root causes. Information on our policy and well-being framework, as well as supporting guidance and e-learning packages, are available to line managers and staff on our intranet.

The Home Office has in place an Employee Assistance Programme which provides a confidential 24 hour/365 days telephone line staffed by fully qualified counsellors, to staff and their dependents on a range of issues including stress. In addition, the Department may also refer individual cases to its Occupational Health Service provider, where the line manager and the Department need independent medical advice.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr Frank Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what development work is being undertaken by UK armed forces in Afghanistan. [48365]

**Nick Harvey:** The Department for International Development is the lead UK Department on development activity in Afghanistan. The armed forces support stabilisation efforts in Helmand through military stabilisation support teams (MSSTs), which are a key component of the joint civil-military Helmand provincial reconstruction team.

The MSSTs work with their civilian counterparts in the provincial reconstruction team to identify and aid in the delivery of stabilisation projects, and provide a foundation for broader development activities.

### Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what financial savings his Department expects to make from the abolition of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. [48315]

**Peter Luff:** In my statement to the House on 21 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 15WS, I set out my intention to dissolve the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC). Given that the AWAC has not met since 2007, there will be no direct financial savings compared with recent years.

### Armed Forces: Discharges

**Alex Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the extent of the entitlement of members of the armed forces under the age of 18 years and three months to discharge themselves without notice; and if he will make a statement. [43438]

**Mr Robathan:** The current arrangements covering the right to discharge for those personnel under the age of 18 have been considered in the course of the passage of the recent Armed Forces Bill and found to remain appropriate. This policy will continue to be monitored.

### Armed Forces: Recruitment

**Stuart Andrew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the recruitment age for the armed forces. [47549]

**Mr Robathan** *[holding answer 18 March 2011]:* The United Kingdom armed forces will accept applications from individuals from the age of 16, depending upon which service they wish to join. The upper age limit for recruitment in the regular armed forces is dependent upon which career the individual wishes to pursue. This policy continues to be monitored.

### Armed Forces: Redundancy

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 1 March 2011, what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancies in *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Royal Navy and *(c)* the Royal Air Force announced on 1 March 2011. [44300]

**Mr Robathan:** As a result of the financial situation inherited from the previous Government it was necessary to announce significant reductions to both civilian and military personnel as part of the strategic defence and security review. The costs of redundancies will depend on detailed implementation of these reductions, which will include early release and natural wastage, as well as redundancies. Estimates are subject to change and the Ministry of Defence is therefore not in a position to provide detailed figures at this time.

### Armed Forces: Young People

**Mr Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he acts in loco parentis for members of the armed forces who are under the age of 18 years. [40998]

**Mr Robathan:** No. While there is a clear duty of care for all personnel, the Secretary of State and the Chiefs of Staff do not act in loco parentis to those aged under 18.

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether there is guidance in place for commanding officers on their use of discretion with respect to his Department's policy which provides for a person under the age of 18 years who has shown a genuine and persistent unhappiness with service life to be discharged outside of their statutory right to leave within the first six months; and if he will make a statement. [41580]

**Mr Robathan:** Guidance, including Queen's Regulations, single-service communications and centrally issued defence information notices, is issued to outline the commanding officer's role in considering the discharge of a person under the age of 18. Commanding officers are encouraged to treat such cases sympathetically. Officials are currently reviewing these communications to ensure that guidance is clear and unambiguous.

### Ministerial Special Advisers

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on *(a)* salaries and *(b)* pension entitlements for special advisers in the financial year 2010-11 to date. [46581]

**Mr Robathan:** Special adviser numbers and pay bands were released by the Cabinet Office; the information is available at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

The website lists the names of the special advisers in post in each Department and details each special adviser's pay band, actual salary where it is £58,200 or higher, together with details of special advisers' pay ranges for 2010-11. It also shows the total pay bill cost of special advisers for the period up to 31 March 2011. The estimated pay bill includes pension costs, and details of pension arrangements are set out in the "Model contract for Special Advisers", available at the same link.

### Departmental Pay

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the potential savings resulting from the changes to allowances and bonuses announced on 20 January 2011 in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15. [43983]

**Mr Robathan:** The estimates requested are given in the following table:

| *Financial year* | *Estimated savings (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2011-12 | 100 |
| 2012-13 | 170 |
| 2013-14 | 230 |
| 2014-15 | 250 |

The figures provided include the estimated savings made as a result of changes to allowances announced by my the Minister for the Armed Forces, my hon. Friend the Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey) on 16 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 116WS, and those which I announced on 20 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 45-47WS.

### Private Finance Initiative

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which private finance initiative projects sponsored by his Department have been funded from the Exchequer due to a shortfall in funds in each year since 1997; and how much funding was provided in each case. [45008]

**Mr Robathan:** Since 1997, there have been no Ministry of Defence private finance initiative projects that have required additional funding from HM Treasury.

### Departmental Public Appointments

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which public bodies sponsored by his Department *(a)* have been and *(b)* are to be closed, merged or reorganised; and how many (i) women and (ii) men who are public appointees at each body will no longer hold such an appointment in consequence. [47108]

**Mr Robathan:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by the Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology, my hon. Friend the Member for Mid Worcestershire (Peter Luff), on 21 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 15WS. This announced the abolition of the Animal Welfare Advisory Body. The proposals for the majority of bodies across all Departments was subsequently announced and published on 14 October 2010. An updated list reflecting changes since October 2010 has been published by the Cabinet Office and can be downloaded from:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/ndpb

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee had not sat since 2007 and one public appointment (male) was affected by its abolition.

## Departmental Rail Travel

**Mr Godsiff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of civil servants in his Department are entitled to travel first class by rail within the UK. [47073]

**Mr Robathan:** While civil servants who are pay band C2/higher executive officer (HEO) and above are technically entitled to first-class rail travel when travelling on official duty; they have since late 2009, forgone that entitlement and been asked to travel standard class unless there are exceptional circumstances. In such cases this must be endorsed by a senior line manager. Staff at C2/HEO and above represent 30% of the work force. All staff must ensure they get the best value for money when making their travel arrangements (for example, by booking tickets in advance and avoiding, where possible, flexible and open return tickets).

## Regulation

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions his Department has consulted representatives of small businesses on the effects of proposed new regulations since 6 May 2010. [46142]

**Peter Luff:** The Ministry of Defence routinely holds meetings with businesses of all sizes, both individually and via their trade associations, as part of its regular consultation with industry. We do not hold meetings specifically to discuss proposed new regulations, as we are not a regulatory Department.

We are particularly aware that the UK's defence capabilities rely on many thousands of small and medium-scale enterprises and have recently announced plans to increase their ability to engage with Minsters and officials, through the new Defence Suppliers Forum.

## Hotels

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's expenditure was on hotel accommodation for *(a)* officials, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* special advisers in each month since January 2009. [45766]

**Mr Robathan:** Information available on the Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s expenditure on hotel accommodation is as follows:

*Officials*

| *Month* | *Expenditure (£)* |
|---|---|
| *2009* | |
| January | 1,205,511 |
| February | 1,422,030 |
| March | 1,733,053 |
| April | 1,127,684 |
| May | 1,438,426 |
| June | 1,446,285 |
| July | 1,565,474 |
| August | 983,825 |
| September | 1,191,520 |
| October | 1,455,565 |
| November | 1,326,392 |
| December | 892,960 |
| *2010* | |
| January | 598,377 |
| February | 878,861 |
| March | 1,184,851 |
| April | 720,111 |
| May | 850,764 |
| June | 980,177 |
| July | 1,027,671 |
| August | 726,718 |
| September | 896,716 |
| October | 984,761 |
| November | 1,214,982 |
| December | 722,189 |
| *2011* | |
| January | 694,639 |
| February | 849,351 |

*Ministers*

We do not hold the information in the format requested and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost as all bills for accommodation would need to be analysed manually to extract the information sought.

*Special advisers*

| *Month* | *Expenditure (£)* |
|---|---|
| January 2009 | 47 |
| February 2009 | 0 |
| March 2009 | 476 |
| April 2009 | 0 |
| May 2009 | 188 |
| June 2009 | 542 |
| July 2009 to January 2010 | 0 |
| February 2010 | 272 |
| March to June 2010 | 0 |
| July 2010 | 74 |
| August and September 2010 | 0 |
| October 2010 | 281 |
| November and December 2010 | 0 |
| January 2011 | 75 |
| February 2011 | 482 |

The figures for officials and special advisers reflect the amount reimbursed for the cost of hotel rooms and any meals or refreshments that can be identified as taken in the hotel. They do not include payments for hotel accommodation made by Government Procurement Card (where no distinction is made between service staff, officials and special advisers or between different types of overnight accommodation) or other subsistence costs related to the official duty necessitating the overnight stay or other subsistence costs related to the official duty necessitating the overnight stay in the hotel (such information is not recorded by type of overnight accommodation).

We constantly seek to get the best value for money out of our travel arrangements and maximise the MOD's corporate leverage in the business travel market.

## Military Aircraft

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans the Royal Navy has for the purchase of maritime patrol aircraft. [47975]

**Peter Luff:** The Ministry of Defence is currently conducting a capability investigation into its long-term requirements for a wide area maritime surveillance capability, which will report in September 2011. We currently have no plans to procure a maritime patrol aircraft.

### Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency

**Jonathan Reynolds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what level of customer satisfaction was most recently recorded by his Department in respect of Ministry of Defence Police in defence community police officer roles. [48031]

**Mr Robathan:** The Ministry of Defence Police customer satisfaction survey 2010 recorded a satisfaction rate of 92.3% for Defence community police officers.

**Jonathan Reynolds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the budget for the Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency functions is in respect of *(a)* defence business continuity, *(b)* defensive armed policing, *(c)* uniformed policing, *(d)* guarding and *(e)* crime investigation in each of the last five years. [48032]

**Mr Robathan:** The following table provides the budget for the identified Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency functions for the last five financial years:

*£ million*

| | *Defence Business Continuity* | *Defensive Armed Policing* | *Uniformed Policing* | *Guarding* | *Crime Investigation* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | [1]— | 86.000 | 3.300 | 103.300 | 8.800 |
| 2007-08 | 10.309 | 60.252 | 1.893 | 117.114 | 10.776 |
| 2008-09 | 11.181 | 63.311 | 2.197 | 118.095 | 11.115 |
| 2009-10 | 11.258 | 62.747 | 2.212 | 117.950 | 11.191 |
| 2010-11 | 8.998 | 54.072 | 4.485 | 98.511 | 11.132 |

[1] Not recorded

### Radioactive Waste

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons his Department project increases in aerial and liquid discharges of tritium from the defence sector in the UK Strategy for Radioactive Discharges. [47135]

**Peter Luff:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Royal Naval Armaments Depot Coulport

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to announce the future arrangements for contractor management and operation of the Royal Naval Armaments Depot at Coulport. [47826]

**Peter Luff:** The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has been assessing options on how best to sustain elements of strategic weapons systems support at Coulport in the future. On current plans, a decision is expected later this year. The safety, security and effectiveness of the UK's strategic deterrent remain paramount. Irrespective of the outcome, Coulport will remain under the ownership and control of the MOD.

### Sealand

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Minister in his Department took the decision to refuse access to the Defence Support Group site at Sealand to the hon. Member for Alyn and Deeside; and if he will make a statement. [48017]

**Mr Robathan** *[holding answer 21 March 2011]:* No Minister made any decision to refuse the hon. Member access to the Defence Support Group (DSG)'s site at Sealand in his constituency of Alyn and Deeside. The hon. Member has previously visited the site on several occasions for business updates and discussions with DSG's senior management and trade unions. However, any visit to a Ministry of Defence site requires the prior approval of the appropriate Defence Minister in advance. I know that if he contacts the office of DSG's chief executive, a mutually convenient date for a visit may then be arranged.

### Trident

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect of the time taken to pass the initial gate stage on the 2016 start date for construction of the first Trident replacement submarine in 2016. [47771]

**Peter Luff:** We expect an announcement on initial gate in the coming weeks. As the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox) said on 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 8:

> "there remain ongoing discussions, which have simply taken longer then it was anticipated a few weeks ago. It is important, given the size of the project, that we get the decision right."

There has been no change to our plan to build the first Trident replacement submarine, outlined in the Strategic Defence and Security Review, as a result of the short delay to initial gate.

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what measures have been introduced to ensure that the decision on Trident taken at initial gate will ensure the cost-effectiveness of the process of renewing the independent nuclear deterrent. [47772]

**Peter Luff:** Following the value for money study, we took a number of decisions during the strategic defence and security review (SDSR) to ensure that the successor deterrent programme will be delivered effectively. These included deferring the in-service date of the submarine to 2028, reducing the number of operational missiles and warheads and improving the way we work with industry under the submarine enterprise performance programme.

We have also previously announced that we will work with the US to deliver a common missile compartment for the successor submarine, which will reduce costs through the sharing of development costs.

The decision taken during the SDSR allowed us to save and defer £3.2 billion over the next 10 years.

## TREASURY

### Public Expenditure Reductions

17. **Graeme Morrice:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review the pace of proposed reductions in public expenditure to take into account the GDP figures for the fourth quarter of 2010. [47934]

18. **Barry Gardiner:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review the pace of proposed reductions in public expenditure to take into account the GDP figures for the fourth quarter of 2010. [47935]

**Ian Mearns:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review the pace of proposed reductions in public expenditure to take into account the GDP figures for the fourth quarter of 2010. [47940]

**Danny Alexander:** Deficit Reduction is a pre requisite for sustainable economic growth. While recognising the recovery could prove choppy, the Government are committed to the consolidation programme announced in the June Budget and providing the conditions for growth.

The UK economy grew by 1.3% in 2010 and the OBR's November 2010 Economic and Fiscal Outlook, which takes into account all the measures announced in the June Budget and spending review, forecasts the economy to grow in every year of the forecast to 2015-16.

### Petrol Prices

19. **John Mann:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of trends in duty and value added tax on petrol. [47936]

**Justine Greening:** The previous Administration raised fuel duty 12 times while in office, including on four occasions between December 2008 and April 2010, proposed introducing a fuel escalator from 2011, and planned for a further series of six consecutive fuel duty rises of nearly 6p in total plus rises linked to inflation in each year up to 2014.

The standard rate of value added tax was increased to 20% in order to help tackle the fiscal deficit that was inherited from the previous Administration.

### Inflation

20. **Mr Carswell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to reduce the rate of inflation. [47937]

**Justine Greening:** The independent Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of England is responsible for maintaining price stability and achieving the 2% annual inflation target set by the Government.

The remit for the MPC allows it to look through short-term movements in inflation that are driven by temporary shocks. The MPC continues to judge inflation is likely to fall back during 2012 due to the effects of spare capacity in the economy.

### Bank Bonuses

22. **Heidi Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals for a further tax on bank bonuses. [47939]

**Mr Hoban:** We have been clear that we want the banks to make a greater contribution to the Exchequer, which is why we introduced the permanent banking levy. The reality is that, in steady state, the bank levy will raise more revenue every year from the banking sector than the bank payroll tax.

The hon. Member should remember the words of the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, the right hon. Member for Edinburgh South West (Mr Darling), who said that the bank payroll tax did not work.

### Economic Growth: Kent

24. **Mrs Grant:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fiscal measures he has taken to support economic growth in Kent. [47941]

**Danny Alexander:** This Government have taken steps to tackle the big issues that matter for growth, and macroeconomic stability: to ensure access to finance for SMEs and to protect incentives for innovation; to reform the skills and labour market systems; to ensure the UK tax regime is competitive; and to prioritise investment in infrastructure.

The Local Growth White Paper published last October provides the framework through which we will deliver growth at the local level, including powerful incentives for local authorities to go for growth.

### Manufacturing

25. **Amber Rudd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fiscal measures he is taking to support economic growth in the manufacturing sector. [47942]

**Justine Greening:** The June Budget announced reductions in the main rate of corporation tax from 28% to 24% over four years, and of the small profits rate from 21% to 20%. The manufacturing sector is expected to gain over £250 million annually when the package is fully implemented. The Budget and growth review will set out further details of the Government's plan for sustainable, private sector-led, balanced growth.

### HM Revenue and Customs

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the contribution of HM Revenue and Customs to reducing the budget deficit. [47938]

**Mr Gauke:** The scale of the deficit means there has never been a more important time for HMRC to be more efficient and flexible in dealing with customers and more effective in bringing in revenues.

HMRC's spending review 2010 (SR10) settlement reflects the vital dual role that HMRC plays in reducing the deficit.

HMRC will make significant savings-reducing costs by 25%, including a 33% reduction in administrative costs and reduce capital spend by 25% compared to 2010-11, but will also reinvest £917 million of these savings to tackle avoidance, evasion and fraud.

For SR10 HMRC will bring in additional revenues in each year of the SR rising to £7 billion a year by 2014-15. The total additional revenues from tackling tax avoidance, evasion and fraud over the SR period is £18 billion. Additionally, HMRC is committed to reducing fraud and error in the tax credit system by £2 billion a year.

### VAT: Retail Industry

**Eric Joyce:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on consumer confidence of the increase in the standard rate of value added tax since his recent meeting with representatives of the retail industry. [47923]

**Mr Gauke:** Sustainable public finances will increase consumer confidence in the medium-term.

Decisive action taken by the Government in the spending review and June Budget, including the increase in VAT, will put the public finances and spending on a sustainable footing.

### Excise Duties: Fuels

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether liquefied petroleum gas will be included in his application to the European Commission for a rural fuel duty rebate pilot scheme. [48085]

**Justine Greening:** Liquefied petroleum gas for road use is a fuel type with an existing UK wide duty discount. The Government intend to submit a formal proposal to the European Commission for a pilot scheme that will deliver a maximum of five pence per litre duty discount on petrol and diesel in remote rural areas.

### Income Tax: Underpayments

**Mr Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the recovery by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) of underpaid income tax where the underpayment was caused by an error or errors made by HMRC; and if he will make a statement. [47715]

**Mr Gauke:** Extra Statutory Concession A19 (ESC A19) sets out the conditions that must be met before HMRC can forgo the recovery of income tax underpayments. The concession requires the underpayment to have arisen as a result of HMRC's failure to make proper and timely use of information provided. It also requires the individual to show that they had reasonable belief that their tax affairs were in order.

### Individual Savings Accounts: Children

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many expressions of interest in his proposed junior ISA his Department has received via the direct.gov portal. [48111]

**Mr Hoban:** Information on Junior ISAs is available to members of the public on the Directgov website. However it is not possible, on this website, to record expressions of interest in Junior ISAs.

The Government continue to consult with a wide range of interested stakeholders on Junior ISAs.

### Means-tested Benefits

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of working heads of family in receipt of income-related benefits or tax credits, facing a marginal rate of deduction of over *(a)* 60 per cent., *(b)* 70 per cent., *(c)* 71 per cent., *(d)* 72 per cent., *(e)* 73 per cent., *(f)* 75 per cent., *(g)* 76 per cent., *(h)* 77 per cent., *(i)* 78 per cent., *(j)* 79 per cent. and *(k)* 80 per cent. in (i) 2010-11 and 2011-12 as a result of the March 2010 Budget and (ii) 2011-12 as a result of the June 2010 Budget. [42358]

**Mr Gauke:** The following table sets out our estimate of the numbers of working heads of family in receipt of income-related benefits or tax credits facing a marginal rate of deduction in excess of the requested thresholds.

| *Marginal deduction rates*[1] | *2010-11* | *2011-12*[2] | *2011-12*[3] |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Over* | | | |
| 80% | 270,000 | 335,000 | 330,000 |
| 79% | 270,000 | 335,000 | 330,000 |
| 78% | 270,000 | 335,000 | 335,000 |
| 77% | 275,000 | 335,000 | 335,000 |
| 76% | 275,000 | 360,000 | 355,000 |
| 75% | 315,000 | 365,000 | 360,000 |
| 73% | 330,000 | 365,000 | 360,000 |
| 72% | 330,000 | 365,000 | 1,705,000 |
| 71% | 330,000 | 365,000 | 1,710,000 |
| 70% | 330,000 | 1,680,000 | 1,710,000 |
| 60% | 1,895,000 | 1,895,000 | 1,935,000 |

[1] Marginal deduction rates are for working heads of families in receipt of income-related benefits or tax credits where at least one person works 16 hours or more a week, and the head of the family is not receiving pensioner or disability premia.

[2] Following March 2010 Budget.

[3] Following June 2010 Budget

*Note:*

Figures are cumulative. Estimates for the 2011-12 tax benefit system are calibrated to tax credit statistics for April 2010, and earlier data for housing and council tax benefits.

At the spending review, the Government announced the new universal credit introduced over two Parliaments, which will replace the current complex system of means-tested working-age benefits with a simple streamlined payment. The universal credit will improve financial work incentives by ensuring that support is reduced at a consistent and managed marginal deduction rate (generally at no more than around 76p in the pound as compared with 96p currently) as people return to work and increase their working hours and earnings.

### Members: Correspondence

**Amber Rudd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when his Department plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Hastings and Rye of 6 December 2010 Ref AR/JA/243 on behalf of constituents Mr and Mrs Gordon. [47507]

**Mr Gauke:** I replied to the hon. Member on 10 March 2011.

### Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

**Harriett Baldwin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is reviewing the application of business rates to empty property as part of the Budget process. [47719]

**Mr Gauke:** As with all taxes and reliefs, HM Treasury keeps the application of business rates to empty property under review.

### Public Sector: Pensions

**Dr Wollaston:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what legal advice he and his colleagues have received on proposals to change the basis of index linking of public sector pensions already in payment, including on amendments to such schemes whose members made a specific contribution in return for index linking in a particular way. [47600]

**Danny Alexander:** Where relevant, the Government consider legal advice before announcing and implementing new policies. In line with longstanding practices, and to protect legal privilege, this advice is not released.

### Tax Allowances: Married People

**Gavin Williamson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to bring forward legislation for a transferable tax allowance for married couples; whether the allowance will be available to *(a)* couples without children, *(b)* civil partners and *(c)* cohabiting couples; and whether HM Revenue and Customs holds information to enable the production of lists of (i) single earner and (ii) dual earner couple households. [47713]

**Mr Gauke:** Proposals that recognise marriage and civil partnerships in the income tax system will be brought forward by the Chancellor at the appropriate time.

HMRC does not hold information on individuals' household status, with the exception of tax credit recipients.

### Taxation: Football

**Gavin Williamson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the sums owed to the Exchequer by football clubs in the Premier League and Football League at the end of the 2009-10 tax year. [47595]

**Mr Gauke:** In response to a recent Freedom of Information request, HMRC released the following information about the amount of direct and indirect tax outstanding as at 30 April 2010. This is shown in the following table.

| *Division* | *Direct tax outstanding* | *Indirect tax outstanding* |
|---|---:|---:|
| Premier League | 5,779,948 | 8,607,106 |
| Football League (inc. Championship) | 6,059,617 | 1,348,854 |
| Total | 11,839,565 | 9.955,960 |

These totals only include PAYE/NIC and VAT and are only a snapshot, valid only on the date taken and, as with any snapshot, the amounts are likely to have been significantly different if taken on a different day as liabilities can become due and payments can be made on a daily basis.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Bahrain: Human Rights

**Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Bahrain on the protection of human rights during periods of unrest; and if he will make a statement. [48347]

**Alistair Burt:** The Government are gravely concerned about the security situation in Bahrain and are monitoring the situation closely. The Prime Minister spoke by telephone to King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa on 15 March, calling on the King of Bahrain to end the violent suppression of street protests in Bahrain.

The Secretary State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend, spoke to Bahraini Foreign Minister H.E. Shaikh Khalid Bin Ahmed Bin Mohamed Al Khalifa on 16 March, and expressed serious concern at the situation on the ground and urged for restraint on all sides and the need to return to law and order to enable genuine political reform.

### BBC World Service

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 270W, on the BBC World Service, how many representations overseas UK embassies have received on the reductions in the BBC World Service. [48363]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Bosnia and Herzegovina: Anniversaries

**Rushanara Ali:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who will represent the Government at the Srebrenica anniversary commemorations in Bosnia on 11 July 2011. [48104]

**Mr Lidington:** No decision has yet been taken in respect of our representation at the 2011 Srebrenica anniversary commemorations. In 2010, the Government was represented by Lady Warsi, Minister without Portfolio.

**Rushanara Ali:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials of his Department have had with representatives of the survivors of the Srebrenica massacre; and if he will make a statement. [48169]

**Mr Lidington:** Our embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) has periodic contacts with representatives of survivors groups. The Government have condemned, on many occasions, the appalling acts of genocide committed at Srebrenica. At the 15th anniversary of the massacre at Srebrenica, the Prime Minister stated that:

"We must never forget the act of genocide that happened at Srebrenica. It was a crime that shamed Europe. We are committed to bringing those responsible to justice".

Through our programme funding, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) provides financial support to fund international personnel working in the Srebrenica team in the State Prosecutors Office in BiH. These staff have contributed to the successful prosecution of war crimes cases relating to events in Srebrenica in 1995. The FCO has also provided support to the work of the International Commission of Missing Persons in BiH in identifying the remains of victims of the genocide at Srebrenica. The FCO has contributed to the cost of the Memorial Centre in Srebrenica. It has also supported work on infrastructure reconstruction and socio-economic activities to support sustainable return in the Srebrenica area.

### Cote d'Ivoire: Politics and Government

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the government of Cote d'Ivoire on the killing of demonstrators in Abidjan on 3 March 2011. [47764]

**Mr Hague:** I condemn the violence which led to the loss of innocent lives on 3 March 2011. Those responsible must answer for their actions, and we support calls for an international commission of inquiry into this and other instances of violence during the political crisis in Cote d'Ivoire.

We are in regular contact with President Ouattara and his Ministers, including on the human rights situation, through our diplomatic representation in Abidjan. I spoke to President Ouattara last night. The UK Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva spoke to President Ouattara's Foreign Minister, M. Jean-Marie Kacou Gervais on 14 March 2011 about the situation.

I call on all sides in Cote d'Ivoire to exercise restraint and avoid further violence. Mr Gbagbo must respect the voices of the Ivorian population and the united international community to step aside and allow a peaceful transfer of power.

### Democratic Republic of the Congo: Females

**Mr Buckland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his counterpart in the Democratic Republic of the Congo on steps to counter sexual violence against women and children in that country. [48114]

**Mr Bellingham:** While in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) last year, I met Foreign Minister Thambwe and urged the Government of the DRC to implement fully President Kabila's zero tolerance policy on perpetrators of sexual violence. I also stressed to other DRC Ministers that the DRC's human rights record must improve. On 23 February 2011, I welcomed the convictions of the senior commander, Lieutenant Colonel Mutuare Daniel Kibibi, and eight other Congolese soldiers responsible for the terrible rapes at Fizi in January 2011. Our embassy in Kinshasa also maintains close links with the Ministry of Gender, Family and Children including through the funding of a gender adviser posted in the Ministry.

**Mr Buckland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to assist women and children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo who are at risk of sexual violence. [48115]

**Mr Bellingham:** We are making considerable efforts towards helping victims of sexual violence. We continue to lobby the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to implement their zero tolerance policy on sexual violence and end impunity for these appalling crimes. We have lobbied hard to ensure protection of civilians is the UN Organisation Stabilization Mission in the DRC's (MONUSCO) top priority. The UK's assessed contribution to MONUSCO is around £62 million per year. The UK has also provided in excess of £35 million to the United Nations' Humanitarian Pooled Fund for DRC, which funds medical and psychological care for victims. The UK National Action Plan for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security was published in November 2010 and includes a specific sub-plan covering UK assistance to the DRC.

### Departmental Public Appointments

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which public bodies sponsored by his Department *(a)* have been and *(b)* are to be closed, merged or reorganised following his appointment; and how many (i) women and (ii) men who are public appointees at each body will no longer hold such an appointment in consequence. [47104]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** The Government are committed to increasing the accountability of public bodies, and this involves reducing their number and their cost to the taxpayer. The proposals for the majority of bodies across all departments was announced and published on 14 October 2010. An updated list reflecting changes since October 2010 has been published on the Cabinet Office website this month.

Summary information on public appointments is published annually by the Cabinet Office. This includes data on gender. Copies of the most recent report can be downloaded from

www.civilservice.gov.uk/ndpb

### Departmental Rail Travel

**Mr Godsiff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what proportion of civil servants in his Department are entitled to travel first class by rail within the UK. [47070]

**Alistair Burt:** We have common rules for rail travel for all grades, so where there is an entitlement to first class travel it is the same for all staff.

All staff travel standard class where the published one way rail journey time is less than five hours, unless there are exceptional circumstances such as illness, disability or where first class facilities are essential for working while travelling.

First class rail travel is otherwise only permitted on rail journeys within the UK that are five hours or longer by the quickest and shortest route. In the past 12 months, 99 percent of all railway journeys made by staff within the UK were in standard class.

## Egypt: Politics and Government

**Rehman Chishti:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the steps taken by his international partners to ensure that the views of the Egyptian people are fully taken into account before any change to the constitution of that country is made. [47984]

**Alistair Burt:** There is broad consensus between the UK, European member states and other international partners on policy towards Egypt. The European Council Conclusions of 31 January 2011 made clear that the legitimate democratic aspirations of the Egyptian people should be listened to carefully and addressed through urgent, concrete and decisive measures. Following the referendum on Constitutional reform on 19 March 2011, it will be vital to sustain support for genuine political reform, with a fully inclusive process. It is also important that a credible election timetable is set out.

## Indonesia: Religious Freedom

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Indonesian counterpart on *(a)* freedom of religion and *(b)* violence against religious minorities. [48119]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** We have strong relations with the Government of Indonesia and this includes raising any issues of concern, including freedom of religion, both bilaterally and through the EU. On 11 February 2011 our chargé d'affaires in Jakarta discussed our concerns of the recent attacks on the Ahmadiyya community and churches in central Java with senior officials at the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We stressed the importance of ensuring that there was a full investigation and that those responsible be brought to account.

The EU issued a public statement expressing its concerns on 8 February 2011. The importance of tackling discrimination and ensuring protection for minority communities was a focus of discussion at the most recent EU-Indonesia Human Rights Dialogue in Brussels on 9 March 2011.

## Japan: Tsunami

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contingency arrangements he *(a)* has and *(b)* plans to put in place to (i) provide consular support for and (ii) assist with the evacuation of British nationals in Japan. [47973]

**Mr Hague** *[holding answer 21 March 2011]*: Our Consular Crisis Centre in London and consular teams at two locations in Japan (Tokyo, and Osaka) have been working round the clock to provide assistance and advice to British nationals. In Japan we are providing an enhanced package of consular assistance for British nationals directly affected by the earthquake and tsunami, including financial support for people who need essentials such as food, accommodation and clothing, assistance with medical treatment, telephone calls home, and travel both within and out of Japan.

## Libya

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff of his Department are based in *(a)* Libya and *(b)* Tripoli. [46708]

**Alistair Burt:** All Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff in Libya are based at our embassy in Tripoli. In light of the deteriorating situation in Libya, operations at our embassy in Tripoli were suspended on 26 February 2011. Before operations were suspended, there were approximately 80 FCO employees at our embassy in Tripoli. This figure includes UK-based civil servants and staff employed locally. We continue to employ our locally engaged staff in Tripoli but they are not able to perform their normal duties in current circumstances. UK-based staff from our embassy in Tripoli continue to monitor the situation in Libya, reinforcing the Libya team at the FCO in London.

For operational and security reasons, we cannot provide a more detailed breakdown.

## Middle East: Armed Conflict

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on levels of arms smuggling into Gaza; what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Government of Israel, *(b)* the Palestinian Authority, *(c)* the Government of Egypt, (d) the Arab League, *(e)* the Government of Jordan, *(f)* his EU counterparts and *(g)* the United Nations Secretary General on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [R] [47698]

**Alistair Burt:** Despite the efforts of Israel, Egypt and the international community, weapons continue to be smuggled into Gaza. We continue to work with the international community to support all efforts to implement the steps set out in UN Security Council Resolution 1860 of January 2009, including the prevention and interdiction of illicitly trafficked arms into Gaza and the alleviation of the humanitarian and economic situation. Officials from a number of countries, including the UK, US and Israel, met in Rome on 9 and 10 February 2011 to take forward this work.

## Middle East: Politics and Government

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has commissioned research on the role of *(a)* social media and *(b)* satellite television in the recent unrest in the Middle East. [45318]

**Mr Hague:** Social media and satellite television are a fundamental part of today's networked world. Their role in the middle east is of great interest to us, particularly in light of recent events, and is an important focus of the political reporting which informs our internal policy development. It is also the subject of widely available external research and analysis.

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the promotion of democracy in the middle east; what recent discussions he has had with the Arab League on this issue; what response was received; and if he will make a statement. [R] [47683]

**Alistair Burt:** I refer my hon. Friend to the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs' speech during the debate on the middle east and north Africa in the House on 17 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 494-583.

An unprecedented wave of change is sweeping across the Arab world. Almost every middle eastern country has been affected by demands for greater openness and freedom.

Reform must be a home-grown process, and leadership must come from within countries. However, the international community, including the UK, can play a positive role in supporting the countries of the middle east to put in place the building blocks for more open, plural and free societies.

As part of the UK's long-term approach, on 8 February 2011 in Tunisia, the Secretary of State announced the launch of the Arab Partnership to support the reforms the countries of the region need for a stable and prosperous future. This is not about imposing Western democratic models and prescribing outcomes, but about promoting more open societies.

I also discussed progress towards democratisation with Amr Moussa, Secretary-General of the Arab League, and senior Egyptian figures during his visit to Cairo from 9-11 March 2011.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in the Middle East; and if he will make a statement. [47738]

**Alistair Burt:** As the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend, said in his speech to the House during the debate on 17 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 494-583, an unprecedented wave of change is sweeping across the Arab world triggering a series of simultaneous crises. In Egypt and Tunisia this has led to new Governments and hope of a more democratic future. In Libya, legitimate protest has been followed by bloody civil strife, at the hands of a Government willing to countenance any loss of life in order to retain power. There is continued unrest in Bahrain, and deep instability in Yemen. And we expect further instability in the region in the coming weeks.

Our immediate priorities remain the welfare of British nationals as well as the need to support dialogue and political reform. Across the region, we continue to press Governments bilaterally and through the EU and UN to respond to the legitimate aspirations of their people for greater political and economic freedom. In Tunisia the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend, announced our new Arab Partnership which will support the development of the core building blocks of more open democratic societies, including a free media, broad political participation and private sector development. The United Kingdom will continue to press for progress on the Middle East Peace Process. Our work to tackle Iran's nuclear threat also remains vital.

## Pakistan: Religious Freedom

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the state of religious freedom in Pakistan. [47559]

**Mr Hague:** We monitor closely the issue of religious freedom in Pakistan. We are concerned about intolerance and violence perpetrated against minority groups and that public debate around issues of religious freedom has become difficult.

The Minister for South Asia (Alistair Burt), raised issues of religious freedom with the Pakistan high commissioner in London, and Baroness Warsi discussed these issues with a number of senior Pakistani leaders during her visit in February. The British high commissioner to Pakistan, Adam Thomson, has also raised this issue with the Government of Pakistan. We will continue to engage with the authorities in Pakistan on these issues as part of our wider human rights work.

## Palestinians: Overseas Aid

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent support he has provided to moderate forces in the Palestinian Territories; what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer and *(b)* the Secretary of State for International Development on the provision of funding for moderate forces in the Palestinian Territories; and if he will make a statement. [R] [47668]

**Alistair Burt:** The UK provides financial and technical assistance to the Palestinian Authority (PA). President Abbas underlined during his recent visit to the UK his commitment to peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In the 2010-11 financial year, the Department for International Development's (DFID) support has totalled £31.1 million: £30 million in direct financial assistance and £1.1 million for technical assistance to the Ministries of Planning and Finance.

In addition the UK is supporting capacity building and leadership training for the Palestinian Authority Security Forces. Support in the 2010-11 financial year (from a tri-departmental conflict pool) totalled £2.759 million. The majority of this work is delivered by the British support team in Ramallah, which works with the PA to raise the standards of the security agencies. This includes International Committee of the Red Cross human rights training for senior and intermediate PA security officers.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, DFID and HM Treasury work closely on these issues at both official and ministerial level.

## Population

**Mr David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on *(a)* permitting and *(b)* promoting the provision by Government agencies of technical support to overseas countries seeking (i) information on and (ii) control over their domestic population. [47982]

**Alistair Burt** *[holding answer 21 March 2011]:* We place the values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law at the heart of our foreign policy. Human rights are essential to, and indivisible from, our foreign policy objectives. The Government consider requests for technical support from other countries on a case by case basis, taking account of risks at all levels and in line with foreign policy objectives and values.

### Serbia: War Crimes

**Rushanara Ali:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to his Serbian counterpart on the extradition of Ratko Mladic and Goran Hadzic; and if he will make a statement. [48170]

**Mr Lidington:** The Government remain acutely conscious of the importance of the need to apprehend the remaining International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) fugitives and raises this issue regularly with Serbia.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend, met Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic in Belgrade in September 2010 and then in London in November 2010. On both occasions he made clear that the Government expect Serbia's full co-operation with the ICTY including exerting maximum effort to apprehend Mladic and Hadzic. I have made clear that Serbia's future accession to the EU is conditional on its full co-operation with the ICTY. Our ambassador in Belgrade also consistently reinforces this message in his dealings with the Serbian Government.

### USA: Visits

**Mr Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* representations and *(b)* submissions he has received on his Department's procedures for arranging visitor tours of the White House; and what role the British embassy in Washington plays in arranging such tours for UK nationals. [48068]

**Alistair Burt:** Requests to arrange visitor tours of the White House were previously made through our embassy in Washington, which facilitated such tours for visiting UK nationals. However, this practice was discontinued in September 2010 as a result of the increasing difficulty of securing tour places for UK nationals. This is due to the rise in demand from US citizens for White House tours and the fact that the White House gives priority to American visitors over those from other countries. This change brings us into line with many other embassies in Washington that similarly do not offer to process White House tours for their citizens.

### Voluntary Work

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department are participating in volunteering activities as part of his Department's involvement in the big society initiative. [42657]

**Alistair Burt:** Ministers carry out their duties in line with the Ministerial Code. Any volunteering activities in a personal capacity are a private matter for them. Relevant interests, which may include voluntary activities, are published by the Cabinet Office in the List of Ministers' Interests at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/list-ministers-interests

### Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the situation in Matabeleland, Zimbabwe. [48039]

**Mr Bellingham:** We are concerned at the recent increase in politically motivated intimidation and violence and the disruption of political and civil society meetings throughout Zimbabwe, including Matabeleland. The political situation in Matabeleland is particularly complex. Although the three provinces strongly supported Morgan Tsvangirai in the 2008 presidential election, it is also where the smaller faction of the Movement for Democratic Change won all their parliamentary seats.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Apprentices: Middlesbrough

**Tom Blenkinsop:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of small and medium-sized businesses in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency which employed apprentices in the latest period for which figures are available. [47591]

**Mr Hayes:** I have been asked to reply.

Information is not available at parliamentary constituency level on the size of the employer for apprentices.

The National Employer Skills Survey (NESS) shows a national estimate of the proportion of apprentices employed by employer size. These data are based on repeated surveys of up to 79,000 employers across all business sectors in England. Table 1 shows information from the published 2009 National Employer Skills Survey[1] on the proportion of apprentices employed by the size of employer, expressed as a percentage of all apprenticeships.

[1] Figure 8.4, page 208 in:

http://www.ukces.org.uk/upload/pdf/NESS%20main%20report_1.pdf

*Table 1: Percentage of apprentices employed by employer size (NESS 2009)*

*Percentage*

| | *Number of employees of employer* | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2-4* | *5-24* | *25-99* | *100-199* | *200-499* | *500+* | *Total* |
| Apprentices employed | 13 | 34 | 23 | 8 | 11 | 10 | 100 |

Small businesses are the cornerstone of our economy and high quality training opportunities like apprenticeships are key to supporting their growth and success. I know that small businesses place great value on an apprenticeship and are prepared to invest in them. Indeed, the National Employer Skills Survey suggests that small and medium-sized businesses employ proportionately more apprentices than larger employers.

### Child Maintenance

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the savings to his Department attributable to the operation of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission in each of the next four financial years. [46830]

**Maria Miller:** As we announced at the Spending Review, the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission are not exempt from making significant savings across SR10. Work is continuing, through the Department's continuous planning process, with the emphasis on realising savings through both a reduction in corporate and operational costs. Savings in operational expenditure will be greatly assisted by the implementation of the future scheme.

### Child Poverty

**Kate Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has had discussions with Ministers in the *(a)* Scottish Government, *(b)* Welsh Assembly Government and *(c)* Northern Ireland Executive on the members they propose to appoint to the Child Poverty Commission. [48348]

**Maria Miller:** The devolved Administrations have been involved in discussions on how best to take forward proposals on the Child Poverty Commission.

We believe the Commission must have a remit which will allow it to hold Government to account and drive progress towards reducing child poverty. We cannot justify establishing an independent commission which does not perform these functions effectively. This is why we have chosen to consult with our stakeholders and to carefully consider how the Commission should be taken forward, rather than rushing to set it up. Our plans for establishing a Commission will be set out in the Child Poverty Strategy, to be published shortly. We will ensure Ministers in the devolved Government and Northern Ireland Executive are kept fully informed.

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr Raab:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost to the public purse was of the *(a)* procurement and *(b)* outsourcing function of (i) his Department and (ii) each (A) agency and (B) non-departmental public body for which he is responsible in the last financial year for which figures are available. [43948]

**Chris Grayling:** In the Department for Work and Pensions outsourcing forms part of the procurement function. All DWP commercial activity is covered by a DWP commercial strategy and most is conducted as a corporate service covering the DWP centre, agencies and most NDPBs. The cost of the DWP corporate procurement function for 2009-10, and of those non-departmental public bodies that have their own procurement teams, is as follows.

| *Organisation* | *Cost of procurement function 2009-10 (£)* |
|---|---|
| DWP | 47,305,125 |
| Health and Safety Executive | 1,338,515 |
| Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission | 582,000 |
| The Pensions Regulator | 422,875 |
| Total | 49,648,515 |

This response reflects the cost of delivering the procurement function across DWP in 2009-10, the latest full financial year for which figures are available. The cost of function is not the same as procurement expenditure which is paid to external suppliers. DWP has a largely joined-up procurement function where the corporate centre provides services to DWP, its agencies and most NDPBs. As a result of past efficiency and modernisation programmes the cost of the procurement function has reduced by 35% over the last seven years. A current Commercial Improvement Programme will develop plans for the function to reduce by a further 40% over the SR10 period.

The Department is reviewing all expenditure with a view to driving out inefficiencies and delivering value for money for the taxpayer.

### Disability Living Allowance

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) with reference to paragraph 7 of his Department's impact assessment on reform of disability living allowance, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of his proposed reforms of disability living allowance on the willingness of residents of care homes to travel outside their care home; [46389]

(2) what estimate he has made of the proportion of residential care homes which do not fulfil their responsibilities for the provision of mobility support. [46390]

**Maria Miller:** As paragraph 7 states, the Government have listened to charities and other stakeholders and will no longer remove this payment from October 2012.

We are currently in the process of reviewing existing evidence and gathering more evidence. In recent months I have met disabled people who are care home residents, their families and care home staff, so that I can listen directly to their views about how mobility support works in practice on the ground.

Our work has so far established that the current support for the mobility needs of disabled people in residential care is inconsistent. There is a lack of clarity about funding leading to confusion about who should provide what, leaving the most vulnerable people at the risk of variable provision.

Any subsequent changes to the mobility component of the disability living allowance for people in residential care will be included in the design of the new Personal independence payment. Any changes are not intended to remove disabled people's mobility but will remove any overlaps in public funds.

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what savings his Department proposes to make in respect of the reform of the mobility component of disability living allowance in *(a)* 2013-14 and *(b)* 2014-15; [46831]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the level of savings which will arise from the reform of the mobility component of disability living allowance in *(a)* 2013-14 and *(b)* 2014-15; [46879]

(3) what discussions he has had with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on savings to be made through reform of the mobility component of disability living allowance. [47002]

**Maria Miller:** Support in the new benefit will be focused on those who face the greatest challenges to live independent lives. The detailed eligibility criteria that will be used in the new assessment which includes the mobility component are currently being developed. As more detailed design is completed savings estimates will be updated to reflect the increased level of detail. The Chancellor announced in June 2010 that he anticipated that the overall impact of reform will result in savings equivalent to 20% of forecast working age DLA expenditure overall but savings have not been attributed separately to the care and mobility components of DLA. Further information is available in the impact assessment published on 16 February:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/dla-reform-wr2011-ia.pdf

As the assessment is further developed work will be undertaken which will inform subsequent impact assessments.

The Secretary of State regularly meets with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury. These meetings cover a number of issues and policy areas.

### Employers' Liability Insurance

**Naomi Long:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to publish his Department's response to the consultation on proposals to improve the tracing of employers liability insurance policies and establish a fund of last resort to make payments in cases where employers are insolvent and insurers cannot be traced. [46437]

**Chris Grayling:** In February 2010, the previous Government published their consultation document in Great Britain, "Accessing Compensation—Supporting people who need to trace employers' liability insurance", which set out proposals for people who need to find their employers' liability insurance policies in order to claim compensation. The consultation closed on 5 May 2010.

There were two proposals; firstly an Employers' Liability Tracing Office, that would manage a database of employers' liability policies. Secondly, an Employers' Liability Insurance Bureau which would be a compensation fund of last resort for those individuals who are unable to trace employers' liability insurance records, ensuring they are able to receive compensation for injuries or diseases sustained during the course of their employment.

We are in active discussions with all stakeholders on how this situation can be addressed and we will bring forward our proposals in due course.

### Jobseeker's Allowance

**Stephen Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what transitional arrangements *(a)* there are and *(b)* he plans to introduce for those who are moved onto jobseeker's allowance following a work capability assessment where the change results in a difference in benefit payments. [44617]

**Chris Grayling:** There is no transitional protection for claimants who move from employment and support allowance to jobseeker's allowance and there are no plans to introduce such arrangements. There is however, transitional protection for those who move to employment and support allowance following reassessment of their existing incapacity benefit award.

**Mr Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) in how many cases where couples made a joint claim for jobseeker's allowance the nominated recipient was *(a)* a man and *(b)* a woman in the last year for which figures are available; [48092]

(2) in how many cases where couples made a joint claim for *(a)* income-related jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* income support and *(c)* income-related employment and support allowance the claim was made by (a) a man and (b) a woman in the last year for which figures are available. [48093]

**Chris Grayling:** The information requested in respect of joint claims for income support (IS) and income based employment and support allowance (ESA) is not available because for both these benefits only one member of a couple can make a claim. While many income based IS and ESA customers do receive an additional amount of money for their partner these claims are not made jointly.

The information we do have for the number of joint claims in respect of JSA (IB) are in the following table:

*Jobseeker's allowance (JSA) income based (IB), joint claims, by gender and benefit type, August 2010*

| | *All joint claims* | *Male joint claims* | *Female joint claims* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Income-based and Contributory-based JSA | 1,800 | 1,300 | 500 |
| Income-based JSA only | 18,700 | 10,500 | 8,100 |

*Notes:*
1. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Figures have been uprated using 5% proportions against 100% WPLS totals.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
4. Data provided are the most recent available.

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) Information Directorate, 5% samples

**Mr Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether recipients of Jobseeker's allowance who are attending interviews and work trials receive assistance from the public purse with the cost of travel and meals. [48256]

**Chris Grayling:** Jobseeker's allowance is intended to cover all normal day-to-day living expenses. However, customers attending job interviews that are considered to be outside the local travel to work area may get help with the cost of their fares through the Travel to Interview Scheme and in exceptional circumstances help with accommodation. Customers participating in a Work Trial are also entitled to claim their travel expenses. No meal expenses are paid in relation to attending interviews or a Work Trial.

### Personal Pensions

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made on giving people greater flexibility in early access to part of a personal pension fund. [48007]

**Mr Hoban:** I have been asked to reply.

The Government published a call for evidence on early access to pension saving on 13 December 2010, which closed on 25 February 2011. The Government are currently considering the responses received and will make further announcements in due course.

### Social Security Benefits: Appeals

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to his Department's impact assessment on requiring consideration of revision before appeal, whether this policy is to apply to *(a)* appeals against sanctions and *(b)* appeals about claimant conditions. [46411]

**Chris Grayling:** The proposed permissive power in the Welfare Reform Bill to require consideration of revision before appeal could be used in relation to all appealable social security decisions.

These powers would make it possible to require claimants to apply for a decision to be revised before they are able to appeal to the first-tier tribunal.

The change is being introduced to enable more disputes to be resolved through the internal reconsideration process. The process would allow a claimant's decision to appeal to be informed by whether reconsideration had provided them with a clear justification for the original decision. Claimants would make a positive choice to appeal after their case had been reconsidered—in contrast to the present position where they have to make a positive decision to withdraw their appeal if they are content with the outcome of a reconsideration.

These powers could be used in relation to appeals against sanctions and appeals about conditions of entitlement. We plan to consult on any proposals for regulations in due course.

### Special Educational Needs

**Stephen McPartland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department takes to assist into employment those with learning difficulties at the point at which they leave school. [46043]

**Maria Miller:** The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is committed to improving the life chances of young people with learning difficulties and disabilities and this has been reflected through, for example, active engagement with the Department for Education during their preparation of the recently launched Green Paper for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities- Support and Aspiration: a new approach to special educational needs and disability. Through this, we have highlighted the important contribution DWP will make towards the delivery of more flexible services across government for people with complex needs with the introduction of the Universal Credit and through both the Work Programme and Work Choice.

Our goal is for disabled young people and young people facing complex barriers to have the best opportunities and support so that as far as possible they can succeed in transition from education to adult working life.

DWP is also working closely with others across government to embed fully the learning from cross-government initiatives such as Valuing Employment Now. This involves, for example, active support for delivery in Project Search demonstration sites and support for the evaluation of the Getting a Life demonstration sites.

DWP and Jobcentre Plus continue to make an active contribution to cross-government work towards making a reality of the Adult Autism Delivery Plan through, for example, involvement in the Department of Health-led autism steering group. Jobcentre Plus is working in partnership with external medical professionals, disability specific organisations, and service users to improve the customer service experience for young people with more complex needs through the Hidden Impairments National Group.

### State Retirement Pensions

**Mark Durkan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received the state second pension in each of the last seven years; in how many cases contracted-out deductions were made; and what the total value of such deductions was in each such year. [45438]

**Steve Webb:** The available information is in the following table.

*Numbers in receipt of additional state pension and with contracted-out deductions applied to accruals of additional state pension, with total weekly value of contracted-out deductions, as at 31 march of the years shown (recipients in Great Britain only)*

| | *Numbers in receipt of additional state pension*[1] | *Numbers with contracted-out deductions applied to accruals of additional state pension*[2,3] | *Total weekly value of contracted-out deductions for all individuals (£ p.w. nominal terms)*[4] *(£ million)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 9,309,200 | 4,053,400 | 112 |
| 2005 | 9,493,500 | 4,232,500 | 122 |
| 2006 | 9,603,300 | 4,375,900 | 132 |
| 2007 | 9,794,800 | 4,556,000 | 142 |
| 2008 | 10,035,900 | 4,768,600 | 155 |
| 2009 | 10,269,900 | 4,993,700 | 168 |
| 2010 | 10,536,300 | 5,236,100 | 182 |

[1] Additional state pension includes payments under the graduated retirement benefit, state earnings related pension and state second pension schemes.

[2] Contracted-out deductions may be applied to accruals under the state earnings related pension scheme between 1978 and 1996.

[3] A small number of individuals have contracted-out deductions but no net additional state pension entitlement. These individuals are not represented under 'Numbers in receipt of additional state pension'.

[4] Figures for total annual value of contracted-out deductions are not available.

*Notes*:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 individuals or £1 million.
2. Figures are for recipients in Great Britain only.
3. Figures include own and inherited additional state pension and contracted-out deductions.

*Source*:

DWP, Information Directorate 5% sample administrative data

### Universal Credit

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assumptions he has made in his estimate that £2 billion from fraud and overpayment will be saved by the introduction of universal credit; and how much he estimates will be saved in each *(a)* category and *(b)* year. [45062]

**Chris Grayling:** The greater simplicity of the universal credit scheme will generate savings from a reduction in the scope for fraud and error and in-year overpayments.

Savings will be generated from reforms including the abolition of the de-minimus rule, whereby changes in earnings within certain limits are disregarded in any calculation of tax credits, access to real time earnings data and better sharing of information. In addition, because more customers will continue to claim universal credit, for example, after a move into work, there will be more opportunities to recover any overpayments.

The estimated savings of £2 billion per annum are based on the steady-state position once universal credit is fully implemented and there are no longer any households on the current benefits and tax credits.

The Department has not produced yearly estimates for the transitional period. The savings for the transitional period will depend on the detailed process for moving customers on to universal credit, which has not yet been finalised.

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the impact assessment on his proposals for universal credit, what estimate he has made of the sums attributable to universal credit to be accounted for in his Department's (*a*) annually managed expenditure, (*b*) departmental expenditure limit resource and (*c*) departmental expenditure limit capital in each year covered by the assessment. [45063]

**Chris Grayling:** The impact assessment refers to the cost associated with Universal Credit once fully implemented. At this time it is expected that the annually managed expenditure cost of Universal Credit will be £2.6 billion and the departmental expenditure limit will be reduced by £0.5 billion as a result lower administration costs.

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what change he expects in the number of people working *(a)* one to five, *(b)* six to nine, *(c)* 10 to 19, *(d)* 20 to 29 and *(e)* 30 or more hours per week following introduction of the universal credit. [46501]

**Chris Grayling:** The information requested is not available. We are currently considering whether there is a way of robustly estimating these effects.

Universal credit will improve incentives to work by a combination of earnings disregards and a single withdrawal rate to reduce the credit when earnings exceed the disregard. This will make the benefits of work clearer and simpler: encouraging people to move into work and see the financial benefits of increasing the number of hours they work or provide a clear incentive for people to try out a 'mini-job'. By actively putting work at the centre of working-age support we want to create a new contract with the British people. We will help them to find work and make sure work pays when they do.

The number of hours work a person does will not be part of the qualifying conditions for universal credit.

Overall we expect the number of workless households to fall as a result of improved incentives to work under universal credit.

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will assess the proportion of the cost of childcare to be funded by the recipients under each of the options set out in his proposals for universal credit in each of the next four financial years; [46891]

(2) if he will estimate the number of families in *(a)* Glasgow North East constituency, *(b)* Glasgow, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Great Britain who will receive assistance with the costs of childcare under each of the options set out in his proposals for universal credit in each of the next four financial years. [46892]

**Maria Miller:** As the Secretary of State said at Second Reading of the Welfare Reform Bill, we will be supporting the cost of child care with an additional element in the universal credit and we will invest at least the same amount of money as in the present system. More detailed proposals are under consideration and will be announced during the passage of the Bill.

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the *(a)* number of families on incomes between £16,000 and £24,000 who will be affected by the introduction of universal credit and *(b)* likely effect on average annual incomes in this group of the implementation of universal credit. [46898]

**Chris Grayling:** Transitional protection will ensure that there are no cash losers at the point of transition as a result of changes in the way benefit is calculated.

It is estimated using the Department's Policy Simulation Model that in steady state *(a)* 1.4 million families on incomes between £16,000 and £24,000 will have either a higher or a lower entitlement under universal credit than under the current system, *(b)* It is estimated that the average effect on annual entitlement in this group will be an increase of £570.

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the *(a)* number of families with savings (i) above £16,000 and (ii) between £6,000 and £16,000 who will be affected by the introduction of universal credit and *(b)* the likely effect on average annual incomes in each group of the implementation of universal credit. [46899]

**Chris Grayling:** The Government have made a commitment that there will no longer be losers purely as a result of the move to universal credit. At the point of change a comparison will be made between current amount received in tax credits and/or benefits and the household entitlement under universal credit. If the universal credit entitlement is less, and no other circumstances have changed, a cash amount will be paid in order to make up the difference.

It is estimated using the Department's Policy Simulation Model that in steady state:

(i) 100,000 families with savings above £16,000 would have a lower entitlement under universal credit than they would have had under the current system. It is estimated that the average effect on annual entitlement in this group will be a decrease of £2,720;

(ii) 200,000 families with savings between £6,000 and £16,000 would have either a higher or a lower entitlement under Universal Credit than under the current system. It is estimated that the average effect on annual entitlement in this group will be a decrease of £210.

## Welfare State: Reform

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to his Department's impact assessment on conditionality measures in the Welfare Reform Bill, what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of people who will claim jobseeker's allowance hardship payments in each of the next four years and *(b)* the average sum to be claimed in each such year. [46382]

**Chris Grayling:** We have not made any estimates of the number of people who will claim JSA-related hardship payments over each of the next four years or what the average sum claimed each year will be.

## JUSTICE

### Bailiffs

**Vernon Coaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made on developing options for a public consultation on the better regulation of bailiffs; and if he will make a statement. [48345]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Government have given a commitment to provide more protection against aggressive bailiffs. We have identified options for public consultation on this commitment including the better regulation of bailiffs, the powers of bailiffs, their costs and how complaints should be dealt with. We are currently preparing the paper and intend to publish in spring 2011.

### Boundary Disputes

**Charlie Elphicke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will bring forward proposals to reduce the *(a)* time taken in, *(b)* complexity and *(c)* cost of boundary dispute resolution procedures; and if he will make a statement; [47556]

(2) whether he has considered the merits of resolution of boundary disputes through mediation by and agreement between qualified surveyors; [47584]

(3) if he will assess the implications for his Department's policies of the outcome of the case of Huntley and another *v.* Armes (2010) EWCA Civ 396. [47585]

**Mr Djanogly:** "Huntley *v.* Armes" shows how difficult it can be to resolve a boundary dispute but does not raise any new issues for my Department and there are no specific plans to change the ways in which boundary disputes can be settled. The Government already encourages potential litigants to consider alternative ways of resolving their disputes, including mediation, which can be provided by qualified surveyors where appropriate. The Government are considering the responses to the Ministry of Justice's consultation "Proposals for Reform of Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations". This may lead to changes that are relevant to the cost of resolving boundary disputes.

### British Sign Language

**Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what facilities his Department provides for British Sign Language users to access legal services. [47536]

**Mr Djanogly:** British Sign Language (BSL) users in England and Wales are able to use the Community Legal Advice (CLA) telephone helpline or the CLA website to access legal services. CLA is funded by the legal aid scheme which is administered by the Legal Services Commission (LSC).

BSL users may access the helpline by using a text or web-based 'call me back' service, and can then use web cameras to communicate with legal advisers who are fluent in BSL. This service is currently available at specialist level in the categories of Debt, Housing, Employment and Welfare Benefits.

BSL users may also search through the directory function on the CLA website to find a face-to-face legal adviser local to them that provides BSL translation.

### Departmental Compensation

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) agency and (ii) non-departmental public body for which he is responsible spent on compensation payments to members of the public for errors made by such bodies in each of the last five years. [47426]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The Ministry of Justice was created in May 2007 from the former Department for Constitutional Affairs and part of the Home Office. There is no comparable data from before that time. Some agencies and Executive agencies were in existence before those machinery of government changes, so are able to give data for the last five financial years.

£

| *Organisation* | *2009-10* | *2008-09* | *2007-08* | *2006-07* | *2005-06* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MoJ HQ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| HM Courts Service[1] | 729,000 | 1.15 million | 1.1 million | 630,000 | 520,000 |
| NOMS[2] | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— |
| Tribunals Service[3] | 92,000 | 86,000 | 71,000 | 63,000 | [3]— |
| Office of the Public Guardian | 143,000 | 169,000 | 89,000 | 188,000 | 558,000 |
| Criminal Cases Review Commission | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority[4] | 10,000 | 10,000 | 866 | 57,000 | [4]— |
| Information Commissioner's Office | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Judicial Appointments Commission | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Legal Services Board | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Legal Services Commission[5] | 52,000 | 35,000 | 95,000 | 96,000 | 258,000 |
| Office for Legal Complaints | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Parole Board | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| *Organisation* | *2009-10* | *2008-09* | *2007-08* | *2006-07* | *2005-06* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Youth Justice Board | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

[1] HMCS made compensation payments to court users, including defendants for errors made by court staff.
[2] Although NOMS' accounting system records compensation payments made, it does not categorise them in a way that distinguishes the recipient eg member of the public, staff member, prisoner etc. It would cause disproportionate costs to manually research each compensation payment made to find out if it met the criteria in the question.
[3] The Tribunals Service came into existence on 1 April 2006.
[4] CICA's financial records for 2005-06 are stored on a separate accounting system that has been archived to an offsite location. It would incur disproportionate costs to retrieve them.
[5] In 2008-09 the Commission was also ordered to pay £98,158 in relation to a judicial review.

### Driving under Influence: Sentencing

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* arrests and *(b)* convictions for drink-driving resulted in custodial sentences in each police force area in each year since 1997. [47676]

**Mr Blunt:** From information held by the Ministry of Justice, the number of defendants found guilty, sentenced to immediate custody and sentence breakdown at all courts for drink and drug related driving offences by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2009 (latest available) is shown in the following tables.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring of 2011.

The Home Office are responsible for information relating to arrests, but the information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. Offences of drink-driving do not form a part of this collection.

*Number of defendants found guilty and sentenced at all courts for drink and drug related driving offences by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2009*[1, 2, 3]

| *Police force area/outcome* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000*[4] | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Avon and Somerset* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 2,453 | 2,296 | 2,447 | 2,230 | 2,000 | 2,153 | 2,374 |
| Sentenced[6] | 2,454 | 2,301 | 2,449 | 2,231 | 2,002 | 2,154 | 2,375 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 74 | 76 | 81 | 71 | 52 | 41 | 70 |
| Other sentence[7] | 2,380 | 2,225 | 2,368 | 2,160 | 1,950 | 2,113 | 2,305 |
| | | | | | | | |
| *Bedfordshire* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,039 | 964 | 777 | 713 | 845 | 880 | 977 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,039 | 965 | 776 | 714 | 845 | 881 | 977 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 84 | 63 | 52 | 58 | 50 | 47 | 41 |
| Other sentence[7] | 955 | 902 | 724 | 656 | 795 | 834 | 936 |
| | | | | | | | |
| *Cambridgeshire* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 971 | 956 | 848 | 699 | 713 | 762 | 854 |
| Sentenced[6] | 973 | 955 | 847 | 699 | 711 | 761 | 856 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 35 | 23 | 13 | 21 | 20 | 21 | 31 |
| Other sentence[7] | 938 | 932 | 834 | 678 | 691 | 740 | 825 |
| | | | | | | | |
| *Cheshire* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,738 | 1,705 | 1,600 | 1,488 | 1,396 | 1,799 | 1,700 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,742 | 1,706 | 1,601 | 1,491 | 1,395 | 1,799 | 1,701 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 41 | 64 | 77 | 75 | 47 | 51 | 51 |
| Other sentence[7] | 1,701 | 1,642 | 1,524 | 1,416 | 1,348 | 1,748 | 1,650 |
| | | | | | | | |
| *City of London* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 410 | 281 | 225 | 156 | 147 | 209 | 207 |
| Sentenced[6] | 410 | 281 | 225 | 157 | 147 | 209 | 207 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 7 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 12 | 4 |
| Other sentence[7] | 403 | 275 | 223 | 153 | 142 | 197 | 203 |

*Number of defendants found guilty and sentenced at all courts for drink and drug related driving offences by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2009*[1, 2, 3]

| *Police force area/outcome* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000*[4] | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Cleveland* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 836 | 726 | 709 | 679 | 777 | 808 | 800 |
| Sentenced[6] | 835 | 726 | 709 | 679 | 778 | 809 | 800 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 41 | 23 | 21 | 23 | 29 | 37 | 20 |
| Other sentence[7] | 794 | 703 | 688 | 656 | 749 | 772 | 780 |
| *Cumbria* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 802 | 740 | 771 | 710 | 665 | 686 | 737 |
| Sentenced[6] | 802 | 740 | 771 | 710 | 666 | 688 | 738 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 16 | 14 | 15 | 17 | 16 | 16 | 11 |
| Other sentence[7] | 786 | 726 | 756 | 693 | 650 | 672 | 727 |
| *Derbyshire* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,412 | 1,325 | 1,281 | 1,240 | 1,216 | 1,300 | 1,421 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,412 | 1,327 | 1,280 | 1,240 | 1,218 | 1,303 | 1,421 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 88 | 118 | 104 | 65 | 72 | 93 | 89 |
| Other sentence[7] | 1,324 | 1,209 | 1,176 | 1,175 | 1,146 | 1,210 | 1,332 |
| *Devon and Cornwall* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 2,149 | 2,088 | 2,098 | 2,052 | 2,225 | 2,271 | 2,489 |
| Sentenced[6] | 2,150 | 2,089 | 2,100 | 2,055 | 2,226 | 2,271 | 2,492 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 52 | 64 | 48 | 50 | 68 | 49 | 59 |
| Other sentence[7] | 2,098 | 2,025 | 2,052 | 2,005 | 2,158 | 2,222 | 2,433 |
| *Dorset* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,044 | 1,051 | 1,000 | 974 | 1,001 | 1,032 | 1,103 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,045 | 1,052 | 1,000 | 974 | 1,002 | 1,032 | 1,103 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 45 | 42 | 54 | 33 | 38 | 31 | 22 |
| Other sentence[7] | 1,000 | 1,010 | 946 | 941 | 964 | 1,001 | 1,081 |
| *Durham* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 901 | 913 | 1,024 | 1,025 | 982 | 1,004 | 1,015 |
| Sentenced[6] | 901 | 913 | 1,023 | 1,024 | 981 | 1,004 | 1,015 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 29 | 23 | 36 | 43 | 39 | 29 | 33 |
| Other sentence[7] | 872 | 890 | 987 | 981 | 942 | 975 | 982 |
| *Essex* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 2,545 | 2,231 | 2,309 | 2,262 | 2,231 | 2,290 | 2,366 |
| Sentenced[6] | 2,545 | 2,229 | 2,308 | 2,263 | 2,232 | 2,290 | 2,367 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 163 | 150 | 169 | 134 | 148 | 147 | 153 |
| Other sentence[7] | 2,382 | 2,079 | 2,139 | 2,129 | 2,084 | 2,143 | 2,214 |
| *Gloucestershire* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 969 | 894 | 791 | 711 | 809 | 859 | 823 |
| Sentenced[6] | 969 | 894 | 791 | 711 | 809 | 859 | 824 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 26 | 14 | 26 | 17 | 21 | 27 | 21 |
| Other sentence[7] | 943 | 880 | 765 | 694 | 788 | 832 | 803 |
| *Greater Manchester* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 4,161 | 4,079 | 4,126 | 4,054 | 4,067 | 4,063 | 4,111 |

*Number of defendants found guilty and sentenced at all courts for drink and drug related driving offences by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2009*[1, 2, 3]

| *Police force area/outcome* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000*[4] | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sentenced[6] | 4,161 | 4,085 | 4,128 | 4,056 | 4,068 | 4,063 | 4,113 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 248 | 222 | 225 | 212 | 230 | 234 | 207 |
| Other sentence[7] | 3,913 | 3,863 | 3,903 | 3,844 | 3,838 | 3,829 | 3,906 |
| | | | | | | | |
| *Hampshire* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 3,402 | 3,263 | 3,429 | 3,158 | 3,185 | 3,542 | 3,328 |
| Sentenced[6] | 3,402 | 3,264 | 3,430 | 3,158 | 3,181 | 3,539 | 3,328 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 142 | 131 | 123 | 135 | 140 | 123 | 119 |
| Other sentence[7] | 3,260 | 3,133 | 3,307 | 3,023 | 3,041 | 3,416 | 3,209 |
| | | | | | | | |
| *Hertfordshire* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,519 | 1,515 | 1,514 | 1,409 | 1,538 | 1,762 | 1,750 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,519 | 1,513 | 1,518 | 1,411 | 1,540 | 1,764 | 1,749 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 47 | 45 | 32 | 44 | 47 | 47 | 42 |
| Other sentence[7] | 1,472 | 1,468 | 1,486 | 1,367 | 1,493 | 1,717 | 1,707 |
| | | | | | | | |
| *Humberside* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,122 | 1,203 | 1,161 | 1,200 | 1,120 | 1,251 | 1,357 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,123 | 1,203 | 1,161 | 1,200 | 1,120 | 1,253 | 1,357 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 48 | 44 | 60 | 67 | 69 | 65 | 84 |
| Other sentence[7] | 1,075 | 1,159 | 1,101 | 1,133 | 1,051 | 1,188 | 1,273 |
| | | | | | | | |
| *Kent* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 2,094 | 2,429 | 2,422 | 2,389 | 2,390 | 2,540 | 2,508 |
| Sentenced[6] | 2,095 | 2,433 | 2,423 | 2,390 | 2,390 | 2,541 | 2,510 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 57 | 97 | 86 | 86 | 102 | 92 | 82 |
| Other sentence[7] | 2,038 | 2,336 | 2,337 | 2,304 | 2,288 | 2,449 | 2,428 |
| | | | | | | | |
| *Lancashire* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 3,003 | 2,591 | 2,349 | 2,312 | 2,059 | 2,316 | 2,393 |
| Sentenced[6] | 3,003 | 2,593 | 2,351 | 2,313 | 2,059 | 2,317 | 2,395 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 125 | 93 | 90 | 81 | 78 | 67 | 64 |
| Other sentence[7] | 2,878 | 2,500 | 2,261 | 2,232 | 1,981 | 2,250 | 2,331 |
| | | | | | | | |
| *Leicestershire* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,476 | 1,327 | 1,412 | 1,363 | 1,380 | 1,489 | 1,537 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,476 | 1,328 | 1,414 | 1,363 | 1,380 | 1,491 | 1,540 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 113 | 81 | 98 | 84 | 68 | 75 | 82 |
| Other sentence[7] | 1,363 | 1,247 | 1,316 | 1,279 | 1,312 | 1,416 | 1,458 |
| | | | | | | | |
| *Lincolnshire* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,019 | 913 | 855 | 757 | 808 | 779 | 1017 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,019 | 913 | 855 | 757 | 808 | 780 | 1018 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 31 | 23 | 29 | 28 | 35 | 35 | 22 |
| Other sentence[7] | 988 | 890 | 826 | 729 | 773 | 745 | 996 |
| | | | | | | | |
| *Merseyside* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 2,347 | 2,129 | 1,874 | 1,891 | 1,950 | 2,059 | 2,386 |
| Sentenced[6] | 2,346 | 2,129 | 1,874 | 1,893 | 1,948 | 2,057 | 2,385 |

*Number of defendants found guilty and sentenced at all courts for drink and drug related driving offences by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2009*[1, 2, 3]

| *Police force area/outcome* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000*[4] | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 157 | 195 | 171 | 172 | 125 | 121 | 105 |
| Other sentence[7] | 2,189 | 1,934 | 1,703 | 1,721 | 1,823 | 1,936 | 2,280 |
| | | | | | | | |
| *Metropolitan Police* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 14,795 | 12,656 | 11,300 | 10,803 | 10,374 | 11,857 | 11,406 |
| Sentenced[6] | 14,793 | 12,655 | 11,306 | 10,802 | 10,371 | 11,855 | 11,404 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 848 | 705 | 554 | 545 | 639 | 583 | 563 |
| Other sentence[7] | 13,945 | 11,950 | 10,752 | 10,257 | 9,732 | 11,272 | 10,841 |
| | | | | | | | |
| *Norfolk* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,025 | 1,034 | 915 | 838 | 1,018 | 1,109 | 1,150 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,025 | 1,035 | 915 | 838 | 1,018 | 1,109 | 1,150 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 31 | 27 | 39 | 19 | 31 | 26 | 25 |
| Other sentence[7] | 994 | 1,008 | 876 | 819 | 987 | 1,083 | 1,125 |
| | | | | | | | |
| *North Yorkshire* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,204 | 1,080 | 1,008 | 986 | 982 | 1,026 | 1,085 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,201 | 1,080 | 1,008 | 986 | 982 | 1,026 | 1,087 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 39 | 46 | 31 | 39 | 29 | 33 | 24 |
| Other sentence[7] | 1,162 | 1,034 | 977 | 947 | 953 | 993 | 1,063 |
| | | | | | | | |
| *Northamptonshire* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,006 | 957 | 943 | 703 | 343 | 205 | 726 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,007 | 957 | 942 | 704 | 342 | 206 | 726 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 73 | 53 | 54 | 53 | 38 | 19 | 31 |
| Other sentence[7] | 934 | 904 | 888 | 651 | 304 | 187 | 695 |
| | | | | | | | |
| *Northumbria* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 2,248 | 2,101 | 2,088 | 2,272 | 2,154 | 2,220 | 2,362 |
| Sentenced[6] | 2,248 | 2,103 | 2,089 | 2,272 | 2,154 | 2,222 | 2,362 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 72 | 83 | 89 | 84 | 78 | 61 | 58 |
| Other sentence[7] | 2,176 | 2,020 | 2,000 | 2,188 | 2,076 | 2,161 | 2,304 |
| | | | | | | | |
| *Nottinghamshire* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,747 | 1,539 | 1,556 | 1,508 | 1,394 | 1,232 | 1,437 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,749 | 1,539 | 1,556 | 1,513 | 1,395 | 1,234 | 1,442 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 153 | 137 | 151 | 122 | 111 | 69 | 81 |
| Other sentence[7] | 1,596 | 1,402 | 1,405 | 1,391 | 1,284 | 1,165 | 1,361 |
| | | | | | | | |
| *South Yorkshire* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 2,004 | 1,722 | 1,690 | 1,866 | 1,807 | 1,710 | 1,829 |
| Sentenced[6] | 2,005 | 1,723 | 1,689 | 1,867 | 1,806 | 1,709 | 1,829 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 107 | 84 | 86 | 90 | 77 | 80 | 55 |
| Other sentence[7] | 1,898 | 1,639 | 1,603 | 1,777 | 1,729 | 1,629 | 1,774 |
| | | | | | | | |
| *Staffordshire* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,820 | 1,735 | 1,503 | — | 1,303 | 1,487 | 1,512 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,820 | 1,735 | 1,502 | — | 1,303 | 1,482 | 1,508 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 69 | 75 | 76 | — | 55 | 74 | 63 |
| Other sentence[7] | 1,751 | 1,660 | 1,426 | — | 1,248 | 1,408 | 1,445 |

*Number of defendants found guilty and sentenced at all courts for drink and drug related driving offences by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2009*[1, 2, 3]

| *Police force area/outcome* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000*[4] | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Suffolk* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 944 | 946 | 980 | 808 | 856 | 997 | 1,081 |
| Sentenced[6] | 944 | 944 | 981 | 808 | 856 | 998 | 1,081 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 26 | 31 | 43 | 46 | 31 | 44 | 31 |
| Other sentence[7] | 918 | 913 | 938 | 762 | 825 | 954 | 1050 |
| *Surrey* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,244 | 1,223 | 1,306 | 1,403 | 1,469 | 1,492 | 1,339 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,245 | 1,226 | 1,307 | 1,404 | 1,469 | 1,492 | 1,339 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 32 | 27 | 19 | 28 | 33 | 31 | 21 |
| Other sentence[7] | 1,213 | 1,199 | 1,288 | 1,376 | 1,436 | 1,461 | 1,318 |
| *Sussex* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 2,178 | 1,954 | 2,021 | 1,925 | 2,205 | 2,158 | 2,251 |
| Sentenced[6] | 2,178 | 1,952 | 2,021 | 1,926 | 2,204 | 2,158 | 2,253 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 63 | 60 | 58 | 57 | 68 | 84 | 59 |
| Other sentence[7] | 2,115 | 1,892 | 1,963 | 1,869 | 2,136 | 2,074 | 2,194 |
| *Thames Valley* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 3,743 | 3,593 | 3,416 | 3,219 | 3,013 | 3,994 | 3,614 |
| Sentenced[6] | 3,744 | 3,593 | 3,417 | 3,218 | 3,014 | 3,995 | 3,618 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 110 | 96 | 93 | 103 | 98 | 100 | 81 |
| Other sentence[7] | 3,634 | 3,497 | 3,324 | 3,115 | 2,916 | 3,895 | 3,537 |
| *Warwickshire* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 725 | 708 | 784 | 714 | 820 | 770 | 847 |
| Sentenced[6] | 725 | 710 | 784 | 714 | 820 | 769 | 847 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 13 | 25 | 13 | 20 | 15 | 13 | 15 |
| Other sentence[7] | 712 | 685 | 771 | 694 | 805 | 756 | 832 |
| *West Mercia* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,748 | 1,599 | 1,558 | 1,477 | 1,567 | 1,584 | 1,613 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,748 | 1,597 | 1,559 | 1,478 | 1,568 | 1,584 | 1,614 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 47 | 45 | 57 | 47 | 41 | 48 | 37 |
| Other sentence[7] | 1,701 | 1,552 | 1,502 | 1,431 | 1,527 | 1,536 | 1,577 |
| *West Midlands* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 5,578 | 4,897 | 4,185 | 4,026 | 4,284 | 4,435 | 4,594 |
| Sentenced[6] | 5,580 | 4,899 | 4,184 | 4,030 | 4,288 | 4,437 | 4,597 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 285 | 225 | 249 | 230 | 222 | 225 | 193 |
| Other sentence[7] | 5,295 | 4,674 | 3,935 | 3,800 | 4,066 | 4,212 | 4,404 |
| *West Yorkshire* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 3,426 | 3,223 | 3,224 | 2,958 | 2,848 | 3,170 | 3,284 |
| Sentenced[6] | 3,425 | 3,221 | 3,222 | 2,958 | 2,850 | 3,167 | 3,282 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 196 | 186 | 186 | 135 | 161 | 125 | 113 |
| Other sentence[7] | 3,229 | 3,035 | 3,036 | 2,823 | 2,689 | 3,042 | 3,169 |
| *Wiltshire* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 948 | 992 | 914 | 852 | 913 | 891 | 908 |
| Sentenced[6] | 949 | 991 | 914 | 853 | 914 | 891 | 909 |

*Number of defendants found guilty and sentenced at all courts for drink and drug related driving offences by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2009*[1, 2, 3]

| *Police force area/outcome* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000*[4] | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 20 | 20 | 23 | 16 | 23 | 24 | 18 |
| Other sentence[7] | 929 | 971 | 891 | 837 | 891 | 867 | 891 |
| *Dyfed-Powys* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 893 | 877 | 845 | 748 | 770 | 828 | 872 |
| Sentenced[6] | 894 | 875 | 845 | 750 | 769 | 829 | 873 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 24 | 18 | 28 | 19 | 18 | 25 | 28 |
| Other sentence[7] | 870 | 857 | 817 | 731 | 751 | 804 | 845 |
| *Gwent* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,033 | 1,059 | 953 | 1,058 | 1,016 | 947 | 1,008 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,033 | 1,058 | 953 | 1,058 | 1,016 | 948 | 1,008 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 33 | 50 | 37 | 45 | 43 | 36 | 45 |
| Other sentence[7] | 1,000 | 1,008 | 916 | 1,013 | 973 | 912 | 963 |
| *North Wales* | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,167 | 1,149 | 1,102 | 1,169 | 1,086 | 1,124 | 1,182 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,167 | 1,149 | 1,100 | 1,169 | 1,086 | 1,124 | 1,184 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 47 | 55 | 40 | 48 | 41 | 34 | 33 |
| Other sentence[7] | 1,120 | 1,094 | 1,060 | 1,121 | 1,045 | 1,090 | 1,151 |
| *South Wales*[5] | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 2,371 | 2,411 | 2,192 | 2,300 | 2,383 | 2,343 | 2,429 |
| Sentenced[6] | 2,371 | 2,411 | 2,196 | 2,301 | 2,382 | 2,344 | 2,433 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 108 | 95 | 115 | 114 | 124 | 96 | 65 |
| Other sentence[7] | 2,263 | 2,316 | 2,081 | 2,187 | 2,258 | 2,248 | 2,368 |
| *England and Wales*[4] | | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 89,259 | 83,074 | 79,505 | 75,105 | 76,109 | 81,433 | 83,782 |
| Sentenced[5] | 89,272 | 83,092 | 79,524 | 75,138 | 76,113 | 81,444 | 83,817 |
| *Of which* | | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 4,065 | 3,754 | 3,653 | 3,380 | 3,475 | 3,290 | 3,051 |
| Other sentence[6] | 85,207 | 79,338 | 75,871 | 71,758 | 72,638 | 78,154 | 80,766 |

| *Police force area/outcome* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008*[5] | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Avon and Somerset* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 2,457 | 2,379 | 2,170 | 2,242 | 1,966 | 1,850 |
| Sentenced[6] | 2,457 | 2,382 | 2,174 | 2,245 | 1,965 | 1,850 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 70 | 54 | 68 | 42 | 44 | 28 |
| Other sentence[7] | 2,387 | 2,328 | 2,106 | 2,203 | 1,921 | 1,822 |
| *Bedfordshire* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 986 | 969 | 1,060 | 963 | 805 | 716 |
| Sentenced[6] | 987 | 969 | 1,061 | 963 | 806 | 719 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 45 | 55 | 26 | 21 | 10 | 23 |
| Other sentence[7] | 942 | 914 | 1,035 | 942 | 796 | 696 |
| *Cambridgeshire* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 994 | 1,088 | 1,150 | 1,150 | 1,021 | 871 |
| Sentenced[6] | 993 | 1,089 | 1,150 | 1,150 | 1,023 | 873 |

| *Police force area/outcome* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008*[3] | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 18 | 27 | 27 | 26 | 40 | 26 |
| Other sentence[7] | 975 | 1,062 | 1,123 | 1,124 | 983 | 847 |
| | | | | | | |
| *Cheshire* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,933 | 1,542 | 1,655 | 1,662 | 1,487 | 1,501 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,934 | 1,541 | 1,654 | 1,663 | 1,489 | 1,500 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 55 | 59 | 45 | 37 | 31 | 30 |
| Other sentence[7] | 1,879 | 1,482 | 1,609 | 1,626 | 1,458 | 1,470 |
| | | | | | | |
| *City of London* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 148 | 165 | 158 | 177 | 120 | 95 |
| Sentenced[6] | 148 | 166 | 158 | 177 | 120 | 95 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 4 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 1 |
| Other sentence[7] | 144 | 164 | 157 | 173 | 120 | 94 |
| | | | | | | |
| *Cleveland* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 915 | 838 | 907 | 865 | 920 | 826 |
| Sentenced[6] | 915 | 838 | 909 | 864 | 918 | 824 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 21 | 20 | 12 | 20 | 19 | 14 |
| Other sentence[7] | 894 | 818 | 897 | 844 | 899 | 810 |
| | | | | | | |
| *Cumbria* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 799 | 749 | 768 | 772 | 690 | 614 |
| Sentenced[6] | 800 | 749 | 769 | 772 | 691 | 613 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 19 | 25 | 12 | 22 | 23 | 20 |
| Other sentence[7] | 781 | 724 | 757 | 750 | 668 | 593 |
| | | | | | | |
| *Derbyshire* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | [illegible] | 1,468 | 1,396 | 1,316 | 1,118 | 1,076 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,659 | 1,471 | 1,398 | 1,317 | 1,121 | 1,077 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 72 | 64 | 61 | 60 | 45 | 24 |
| Other sentence[7] | 1,587 | 1,407 | 1,337 | 1,257 | 1,076 | 1,053 |
| | | | | | | |
| *Devon and Cornwall* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 2,341 | 2,299 | 2,199 | 2,140 | 2,054 | 1,911 |
| Sentenced[6] | 2,340 | 2,300 | 2,203 | 2,140 | 2,056 | 1,912 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 52 | 65 | 50 | 20 | 29 | 19 |
| Other sentence[7] | 2,288 | 2,235 | 2,153 | 2,120 | 2,027 | 1,893 |
| | | | | | | |
| *Dorset* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,119 | 1,093 | 1,069 | 1,109 | 986 | 848 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,119 | 1,092 | 1,070 | 1,108 | 988 | 849 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 24 | 23 | 14 | 14 | 13 | 7 |
| Other sentence[7] | 1,095 | 1,069 | 1,056 | 1,094 | 975 | 842 |
| | | | | | | |
| *Durham* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,105 | 1,034 | 900 | 933 | 809 | 793 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,105 | 1,034 | 899 | 932 | 809 | 794 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 37 | 27 | 14 | 23 | 11 | 10 |
| Other sentence[7] | 1,068 | 1007 | 885 | 909 | 798 | 784 |

| *Police force area/outcome* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008*[5] | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Essex* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 2,598 | 2,354 | 2,472 | 2,353 | 2,226 | 2,332 |
| Sentenced[6] | 2,597 | 2,354 | 2,472 | 2,356 | 2,232 | 2,333 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 210 | 165 | 112 | 101 | 83 | 68 |
| Other sentence[7] | 2,387 | 2,189 | 2,360 | 2,255 | 2,149 | 2,265 |
| *Gloucestershire* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 842 | 762 | 769 | 686 | 741 | 718 |
| Sentenced[6] | 841 | 762 | 769 | 685 | 741 | 718 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 14 | 11 | 16 | 11 | 9 | 10 |
| Other sentence[7] | 827 | 751 | 753 | 674 | 732 | 708 |
| *Greater Manchester* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 4,178 | 4,130 | 4,074 | 4,051 | 3,524 | 3,412 |
| Sentenced[6] | 4,178 | 4,131 | 4,079 | 4,054 | 3,523 | 3,419 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 191 | 171 | 122 | 123 | 82 | 78 |
| Other sentence[7] | 3,987 | 3,960 | 3,957 | 3,931 | 3,441 | 3,341 |
| *Hampshire* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 3,431 | 3,099 | 2,674 | 2,765 | 2,527 | 2,280 |
| Sentenced[6] | 3,432 | 3,103 | 2,678 | 2,768 | 2,529 | 2,282 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 95 | 105 | 71 | 76 | 63 | 39 |
| Other sentence[7] | 3,337 | 2,998 | 2,607 | 2,692 | 2,466 | 2,243 |
| *Hertfordshire* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,736 | 1,685 | 1,692 | 1,703 | 1,503 | 1,525 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,738 | 1,685 | 1,693 | 1,704 | 1,502 | 1,526 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 38 | 42 | 24 | 28 | 28 | 9 |
| Other sentence[7] | 1,700 | 1,643 | 1,669 | 1,676 | 1,474 | 1,517 |
| *Humberside* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,424 | 1,397 | 1,367 | 915 | 497 | 1,058 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,425 | 1,398 | 1,367 | 915 | 496 | 1,062 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 47 | 63 | 44 | 45 | 40 | 36 |
| Other sentence[7] | 1,378 | 1,335 | 1,323 | 870 | 456 | 1,026 |
| *Kent* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 2,746 | 2,611 | 2,542 | 2,569 | 2,293 | 2,050 |
| Sentenced[6] | 2,746 | 2,611 | 2,544 | 2,569 | 2,292 | 2,049 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 74 | 76 | 74 | 48 | 44 | 33 |
| Other sentence[7] | 2,672 | 2,535 | 2,470 | 2,521 | 2,248 | 2,016 |
| *Lancashire* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 2,427 | 2,432 | 2,503 | 2,439 | 2,265 | 2,079 |
| Sentenced[6] | 2,427 | 2,433 | 2,504 | 2,439 | 2,265 | 2,081 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 57 | 61 | 52 | 31 | 34 | 29 |
| Other sentence[7] | 2,370 | 2,372 | 2,452 | 2,408 | 2,231 | 2,052 |
| *Leicestershire* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,546 | 1,458 | 1,352 | 1,384 | 1,172 | 1,116 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,547 | 1,458 | 1,354 | 1,383 | 1,172 | 1,117 |

| *Police force area/outcome* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008*[5] | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 60 | 67 | 54 | 33 | 34 | 29 |
| Other sentence[7] | 1,487 | 1,391 | 1,300 | 1,350 | 1,138 | 1,088 |
| | | | | | | |
| *Lincolnshire* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,104 | 1,072 | 1,132 | 1,136 | 1,087 | 955 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,104 | 1,072 | 1,133 | 1,135 | 1,089 | 955 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 24 | 18 | 24 | 26 | 29 | 19 |
| Other sentence[7] | 1,080 | 1,054 | 1,109 | 1,109 | 1,060 | 936 |
| | | | | | | |
| *Merseyside* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 2,485 | 2,572 | 2,414 | 2,269 | 1,838 | 1,771 |
| Sentenced[6] | 2,484 | 2,573 | 2,414 | 2,269 | 1,841 | 1,775 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 129 | 129 | 106 | 76 | 43 | 28 |
| Other sentence[7] | 2,355 | 2,444 | 2,308 | 2,193 | 1,798 | 1,747 |
| | | | | | | |
| *Metropolitan Police* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 11,892 | 11,760 | 12,023 | 11,317 | 10,587 | 9,933 |
| Sentenced[6] | 11,896 | 11,763 | 12,025 | 11,318 | 10,588 | 9,934 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 507 | 470 | 398 | 314 | 307 | 275 |
| Other sentence[7] | 11,389 | 11,293 | 11,627 | 11,004 | 10,281 | 9,659 |
| | | | | | | |
| *Norfolk* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,105 | 1,141 | 1,241 | 1,119 | 988 | 867 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,106 | 1,141 | 1,241 | 1,120 | 988 | 869 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 37 | 26 | 23 | 36 | 19 | 10 |
| Other sentence[7] | 1,069 | 1,115 | 1,218 | 1,084 | 969 | 859 |
| | | | | | | |
| *North Yorkshire* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,025 | 1,143 | 1,121 | 1,094 | 1,029 | 1,059 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,024 | 1,142 | 1,121 | 1,093 | 1,031 | 1,058 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 13 | 21 | 15 | 13 | 17 | 21 |
| Other sentence[7] | 1,011 | 1,121 | 1,106 | 1,080 | 1,014 | 1,037 |
| | | | | | | |
| *Northamptonshire* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 844 | 764 | 919 | 807 | 894 | 854 |
| Sentenced[6] | 844 | 764 | 919 | 809 | 894 | 854 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 33 | 30 | 46 | 56 | 39 | 50 |
| Other sentence[7] | 811 | 734 | 873 | 753 | 855 | 804 |
| | | | | | | |
| *Northumbria* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 2,346 | 2,266 | 2,262 | 2,213 | 2,101 | 1,928 |
| Sentenced[6] | 2,348 | 2,265 | 2,262 | 2,215 | 2,100 | 1,930 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 84 | 38 | 26 | 32 | 29 | 22 |
| Other sentence[7] | 2,264 | 2,227 | 2,236 | 2,183 | 2,071 | 1,908 |
| | | | | | | |
| *Nottinghamshire* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,467 | 1,454 | 1,531 | 1,400 | 1,406 | 1,376 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,467 | 1,456 | 1,530 | 1,402 | 1,407 | 1,373 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 48 | 52 | 45 | 33 | 31 | 35 |
| Other sentence[7] | 1,419 | 1,404 | 1,485 | 1,369 | 1,376 | 1,338 |

| *Police force area/outcome* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008*[5] | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *South Yorkshire* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,955 | 1,985 | 1,785 | 1,851 | 1,772 | 1,734 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,956 | 1,988 | 1,785 | 1,849 | 1,773 | 1,735 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 51 | 56 | 45 | 56 | 61 | 47 |
| Other sentence[7] | 1,905 | 1,932 | 1,740 | 1,793 | 1,712 | 1,688 |
| *Staffordshire* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,533 | 1,511 | 1,450 | 1,520 | 1,460 | 1,373 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,527 | 1,510 | 1,446 | 1,518 | 1,461 | 1,374 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 58 | 49 | 37 | 33 | 28 | 34 |
| Other sentence[7] | 1,469 | 1,461 | 1,409 | 1,485 | 1,433 | 1,340 |
| *Suffolk* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,186 | 997 | 1,064 | 963 | 833 | 800 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,186 | 996 | 1,063 | 963 | 833 | 800 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 45 | 29 | 28 | 26 | 17 | 20 |
| Other sentence[7] | 1,141 | 967 | 1,035 | 937 | 816 | 780 |
| *Surrey* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,368 | 1,380 | 1,312 | 1,394 | 1,273 | 1,194 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,369 | 1,383 | 1,312 | 1,394 | 1,274 | 1,195 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 25 | 24 | 24 | 18 | 23 | 15 |
| Other sentence[7] | 1,344 | 1,359 | 1,288 | 1,376 | 1,251 | 1,180 |
| *Sussex* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 2,295 | 2,157 | 2,273 | 2,279 | 2,030 | 1,769 |
| Sentenced[6] | 2,295 | 2,157 | 2,273 | 2,279 | 2,029 | 1,772 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 46 | 48 | 35 | 49 | 43 | 37 |
| Other sentence[7] | 2,249 | 2,109 | 2,238 | 2,230 | 1,986 | 1,735 |
| *Thames Valley* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 3,282 | 3,211 | 3,161 | 3,102 | 2,763 | 2,323 |
| Sentenced[6] | 3,283 | 3,211 | 3,163 | 3,101 | 2,762 | 2,326 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 94 | 96 | 85 | 70 | 91 | 58 |
| Other sentence[7] | 3,189 | 3,115 | 3,078 | 3,031 | 2,671 | 2,268 |
| *Warwickshire* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 789 | 807 | 829 | 913 | 758 | 788 |
| Sentenced[6] | 789 | 807 | 829 | 914 | 759 | 788 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 11 | 9 | 11 | 12 | 9 | 13 |
| Other sentence[7] | 778 | 798 | 818 | 902 | 750 | 775 |
| *West Mercia* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,616 | 1,739 | 1,821 | 1,708 | 1,561 | 1,473 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,617 | 1,740 | 1,816 | 1,700 | 1,545 | 1,471 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 51 | 54 | 45 | 32 | 32 | 23 |
| Other sentence[7] | 1,566 | 1,686 | 1,771 | 1,668 | 1,513 | 1,448 |
| *West Midlands* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 4,948 | 5,080 | 5,030 | 4,994 | 4,197 | 3,975 |
| Sentenced[6] | 4,947 | 5,082 | 5,036 | 4,995 | 4,202 | 3,980 |

| *Police force area/outcome* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008*[5] | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 213 | 154 | 137 | 146 | 142 | 140 |
| Other sentence[7] | 4,734 | 4,928 | 4,899 | 4,849 | 4,060 | 3,840 |
| *West Yorkshire* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 3,458 | 3,495 | 3,266 | 3,131 | 2,824 | 2,666 |
| Sentenced[6] | 3,458 | 3,495 | 3,267 | 3,134 | 2,824 | 2,668 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 125 | 80 | 67 | 60 | 64 | 56 |
| Other sentence[7] | 3,333 | 3,415 | 3,200 | 3,074 | 2,760 | 2,612 |
| *Wiltshire* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 903 | 919 | 899 | 741 | 630 | 559 |
| Sentenced[6] | 903 | 917 | 899 | 742 | 630 | 559 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 14 | 15 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 3 |
| Other sentence[7] | 889 | 902 | 891 | 736 | 624 | 556 |
| *Dyfed-Powys* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 873 | 837 | 829 | 814 | 728 | 632 |
| Sentenced[6] | 872 | 837 | 828 | 814 | 729 | 632 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 18 | 17 | 13 | 10 | 14 | 9 |
| Other sentence[7] | 854 | 820 | 815 | 804 | 715 | 623 |
| *Gwent* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,057 | 999 | 1,070 | 990 | 909 | 786 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,056 | 998 | 1,069 | 990 | 910 | 786 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 27 | 38 | 32 | 28 | 32 | 19 |
| Other sentence[7] | 1,029 | 960 | 1,037 | 962 | 878 | 767 |
| *North Wales* | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 1,189 | 1,207 | 1,226 | 1,194 | 1,021 | 996 |
| Sentenced[6] | 1,190 | 1,208 | 1,224 | 1,193 | 1,017 | 995 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 32 | 33 | 31 | 18 | 21 | 21 |
| Other sentence[7] | 1,158 | 1,175 | 1,193 | 1,175 | 996 | 974 |
| *South Wales*[5] | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 2,492 | 2,492 | 2,440 | 2,334 | 1,742 | 2,038 |
| Sentenced[6] | 2,493 | 2,491 | 2,440 | 2,336 | 1,743 | 2,038 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 95 | 86 | 75 | 66 | 50 | 59 |
| Other sentence[7] | 2,398 | 2,405 | 2,365 | 2,270 | 1,693 | 1,979 |
| *England and Wales*[4] | | | | | | |
| Found guilty | 86,597 | 84,540 | 83,975 | 81,477 | 73,155 | 69,520 |
| Sentenced[5] | 86,602 | 84,562 | 84,000 | 81,487 | 73,167 | 69,560 |
| *Of which* | | | | | | |
| Immediate custody | 2,983 | 2,754 | 2,255 | 2,001 | 1,829 | 1,547 |

| *Police force area/outcome* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008*[5] | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Other sentence[6] | 83,619 | 81,808 | 81,745 | 79,486 | 71,338 | 68,013 |

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following corresponding offence descriptions, statutes and sections of said statutes:
Driving or attempting to drive a motor vehicle whilst unfit through drink or drugs (impairment), s.4(1)
Driving or attempting to drive a motor vehicle while having a breath, urine or blood alcohol concentration in excess of the prescribed limit, s.5(1)(a)
Failing without reasonable excuse to provide a specimen for a laboratory test or two specimens for analysis of breath if at the relevant time driving or attempting to drive a motor vehicle, s.7(6)
Being in charge of a motor vehicle while unfit through drink or drugs (impairment), s.4(2)
Being in charge of a motor vehicle while having a breath, urine or blood alcohol concentration in excess of the prescribed limit, s.5(1)(b)
Being in charge of a motor vehicle and failing to provide a specimen for a laboratory test or two specimens for analysis of breath if at the relevant time driving or attempting to drive a motor vehicle, s.7(6)
Failing without reasonable excuse to provide a specimen of breath for a preliminary test, s.6(6)
Failing to allow specimen of blood to be subjected to laboratory test, s.7A, s.56, s.31A, s.52
Driving or attempting to drive a motor vehicle whilst unfit through drink or drugs (impairment)—drink, s.4(2)
Driving or attempting to drive a motor vehicle whilst unfit through drink or drugs (impairment)—drugs, s.4(1)
Being in charge of a mechanically propelled vehicle whilst unfit to drive through drink or drugs (impairment)—drink, s.4(2)
Being in charge of a mechanically propelled vehicle whilst unfit to drive through drink or drugs (impairment)—drugs, s.4(2)

[4] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

[5] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[6] The sentenced column may exceed those found guilty as it may be the case that a defendant found guilty, and committed for sentence at the Crown court, may be sentenced in the following year.

[7] Includes: absolute/conditional discharge, fine, community sentence, fully suspended sentence, and otherwise dealt with.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

## Employment and Support Allowance: Tribunals

**Sheila Gilmore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many tribunal *(a)* chairs and *(b)* members have been recruited by the Tribunal Service in Scotland since May 2010 for the purposes of (i) assisting in reducing the backlog of appeals against refusal of employment and support allowance and (ii) dealing with anticipated appeals which may arise from the transfer of claimants from incapacity benefit to employment and support allowance in the next two years. [47744]

**Mr Djanogly:** Appointments to the First-tier Tribunal are made by the Lord Chancellor, in consultation with the Lord President in Scotland, following an open competition which is the responsibility of the independent Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC). Tribunal judges and members may be asked to hear cases on a range of issues across the jurisdiction and are not limited to one benefit type.

Legally qualified tribunal judges and medically qualified tribunal members hear appeals on decisions made by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on employment and support allowance and are appointed to the Social Security and Child Support jurisdiction of the Social Entitlement Chamber.

The 2010-11 recruitment exercise for fee-paid legally qualified tribunal members is currently under way. The original bid for Scotland was for 11 vacancies, increased to 18 to take into account increased intake. Appointments are expected in May. A Social Entitlement Chamber salaried tribunal judge exercise was launched 20 January 2011 including a bid for two judges for Scotland, one to replace planned retirement and one for an additional vacancy to assist in dealing with increased intake.

The 2010-11 medically qualified tribunal member recruitment exercise concluded in November 2010. In light of increased intake, the original bid for Scotland of 10 members was increased to 15, and 15 were appointed. A further medically qualified tribunal member exercise is scheduled to begin 23 March 2011; the Scotland region has bid for a further 10 members. At the same time, a new post of salaried medically qualified tribunal member will also be advertised to assist in, among other things, dealing with the additional demands resulting from expected increases in workload.

The Lord Chancellor also has the power to extend individual appointments for tribunal judges and members upon reaching the statutory retirement age of 70, up to 75 on annual basis. This has been exercised for members in Scotland with a supporting business case provided by the chamber in respect of 11 medically qualified tribunal members and three tribunal judges.

Where a particular region experiences a shortage of members, procedures exist for deploying members from neighbouring regions within the chamber with the consent of the regional tribunal judge.

## Employment Tribunals Service: Trade Unions

**Mr Raab:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints of unjustifiable discipline by a trade union were *(a)* heard and *(b)* upheld by an employment tribunal in each year since 1996. [48261]

**Mr Djanogly:** An individual who thinks he or she has been unjustifiably disciplined by their trade union may, under certain circumstances, bring a claim to an employment tribunal. This is set out in sections 64-66 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992. It is also possible to bring a claim for unreasonable exclusion or expulsion from a union (under sections 174-75 of the 1992 Act).

Complaints under these jurisdictions are relatively rare. Using data held and collated centrally by the Tribunals Service, it is possible to identify claims made annually under these jurisdictions for the period 1996 to 2004. Table 1 sets out the relevant figures.

*Table 1: Claims accepted, heard and ultimately successful under the trade union discipline jurisdictions, 1996 to 2004*

| | Year claim accepted | Successful at hearing | Unsuccessful at hearing | Dismissed at Preliminary Hearing | Default judgment, claimant successful | Total hearings |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Unjustified discipline by a trade Union | 1996 | 1 | 5 | 3 | — | 9 |
| | 1997 | 2 | 7 | 4 | — | 13 |
| | 1998 | 1 | 6 | 1 | — | 8 |
| | 1999 | 3 | 6 | 2 | — | 11 |
| | 2000 | 2 | 7 | 1 | — | 10 |
| | 2001 | 0 | 4 | 1 | — | 5 |
| | 2002 | 1 | 2 | — | — | 3 |
| | 2003 | 0 | 11 | 3 | — | 14 |
| | 2004 | 0 | 3 | 1 | — | 4 |
| Total | | 10 | 51 | 16 | — | 77 |
| Unreasonable expulsion or exclusion from trade union | 1996 | 5 | 2 | — | — | 7 |
| | 1997 | 2 | 1 | — | — | 3 |
| | 1998 | 0 | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| | 1999 | 9 | 3 | — | — | 12 |
| | 2000 | 2 | 2 | 1 | — | 5 |
| | 2001 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 2 |
| | 2002 | 2 | 0 | — | — | 2 |
| | 2003 | 0 | 5 | 1 | — | 6 |
| | 2004 | 0 | 1 | 2 | — | 3 |
| Total | | 21 | 16 | 4 | — | 41 |

*Note:*
*Rounding:*
Figures in the tables are rounded independently and thus may not add to totals. The following conventions have been used:
Values less than 100 remain as unit values;
Values from 100 to 999 are rounded to nearest 10;
Values of 1,000 and over are rounded to the nearest 100.
*Source:*
ET Central database 2010.

In 2004, the way in which employment tribunals collated their management data was revised. As a result, data specifically in relation to these claims have not been recorded centrally. Instead, all such claims have been recorded as ones within a more generic group of trade union-related claims. Therefore, using the Tribunals Service's centrally held data since 2005, it is only possible to show the claim volumes across this more generic group of claims. Table 2 sets out the data that the Tribunals Service holds in this regard.

*Table 2: Claims heard and final outcome where those claims were about detriment relating to being, not being, or proposing to become a union member (some of which may include claims under the trade union discipline/exclusion jurisdictions), 2004 to 2010*

| | Year claim accepted | Successful at hearing | Unsuccessful at hearing | Dismissed at Preliminary Hearing | Default judgment, claimant successful | Total hearings |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Suffer a detriment and/or dismissal relating to being not being or proposing to become a member of a trade union | 2004 | 5 | 9 | — | — | 14 |
| | 2005 | 350 | 64 | 11 | 1 | 430 |
| | 2006 | 21 | 52 | 11 | — | 84 |
| | 2007 | 69 | 44 | 14 | 2 | 130 |
| | 2008 | 18 | 62 | 9 | — | 89 |
| | 2009 | 17 | 43 | 10 | 2 | 72 |
| | 2010 | 8 | 18 | 7 | 2 | 35 |

*Table 2: Claims heard and final outcome where those claims were about detriment relating to being, not being, or proposing to become a union member (some of which may include claims under the trade union discipline/exclusion jurisdictions), 2004 to 2010*

| | Year claim accepted | Successful at hearing | Unsuccessful at hearing | Dismissed at Preliminary Hearing | Default judgment, claimant successful | Total hearings |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | | 490 | 290 | 62 | 7 | 850 |

*Note:*
*Rounding:*
Figures in the tables are rounded independently and thus may not add to totals. The following conventions have been used:
Values less than 100 remain as unit values;
Values from 100 to 999 are rounded to nearest 10;
Values of 1,000 and over are rounded to the nearest 100.
*Source:*
ET Central database 2011.

## European Convention on Human Rights

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what reports he has received on progress in negotiations for the EU to become a signatory to the European Convention on Human Rights. [47809]

**Mr Djanogly:** This question has been passed to the Ministry of Justice to reply as lead Department on the EU's accession to the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Council of the European Union appointed the Commission to negotiate on behalf of the EU in June 2010, on the basis of an agreed negotiating mandate. The Commission has since met regularly with a group of experts elected by the member states of the Council of Europe, including one from the United Kingdom, to prepare the accession agreement, including any necessary adaptations to the convention system. An early draft of the agreement was recently prepared by the Council of Europe Secretariat based on these negotiations, which will now form the basis of further discussions and drafting refinement.

The accession agreement must not extend the competences of the EU, affect the powers of its institutions, nor affect the position of the United Kingdom and other member states in relation to the ECHR. The Government will continue to participate fully in the negotiations with these principles in mind.

## Immigration: Judges

**Nicola Blackwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish revised guidelines for immigration judges; and if he will make a statement. [47956]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Clarke) does not provide any guidance to immigration judges as the judiciary is entirely independent of the Government.

## Interim Possession Orders

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many interim possession orders were issued by each county court in England and Wales in each year since 2007. [47717]

**Mr Djanogly:** The following table shows the number of interim possession orders made in each county court in 2007, 2008, 2009 and in the first three quarters (January to September) of 2010, the latest period for which data are available.

*Number of interim possession orders issued by each county court[1] in England and Wales, 2007-10 Q3*

| Court name | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 Q1-Q3 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aberdare | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Aberystwyth | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Accrington | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Aldershot | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Altrincham | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ashford | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tameside | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Aylesbury | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Banbury | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Barnet | 3 | 7 | 9 | 3 |
| Barnsley | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Barnstaple | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Barrow-in-Furness | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Basingstoke | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bath | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bedford | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Birkenhead | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Birmingham CJC | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bishop Auckland | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Blackburn | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Blackpool | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Blackwood | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bodmin | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bolton | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Boston | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bournemouth | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bow | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Bradford | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Brecknock | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Brentford | 15 | 13 | 7 | 4 |
| Bridgend | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Brighton | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Bristol | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bromley | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Basildon | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Burnley | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Burton-on-Trent | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bury | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bury St Edmunds | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Buxton | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Caernarfon | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cambridge | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Canterbury | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cardiff | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Carlisle | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Carmarthen | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Number of interim possession orders issued by each county court[1] in England and Wales, 2007-10 Q3*

| *Court name* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010 Q1-Q3* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chelmsford | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cheltenham | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Chepstow | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Chester | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Chesterfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Chichester | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Chorley | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Clerkenwell | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Colchester | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Consett | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Conwy and Colwyn | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Coventry | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Crewe | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Croydon | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Darlington | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dartford | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Derby | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dewsbury | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Doncaster | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dudley | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Durham | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastbourne | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Epsom | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Evesham | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Exeter | 0 | 8 | 0 | 15 |
| Gateshead | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gloucester | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Grantham | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gravesend | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Grimsby | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Guildford | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Halifax | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Harlow | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Harrogate | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hartlepool | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hastings | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Haverfordwest | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Haywards Heath | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hereford | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hertford | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| High Wycombe | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Hitchin | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Horsham | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Huddersfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Huntingdon | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ilford | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ipswich | 4 | 4 | 5 | 1 |
| Keighley | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kendal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kettering | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kidderminster | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| King's Lynn | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kingston-upon-Hull | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Kingston-upon-Thames | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lambeth | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lancaster | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Leeds | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Leicester | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Leigh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lewes | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lichfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lincoln | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Liverpool | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Llanelli | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Llangefni | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lowestoft | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ludlow | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Luton | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Macclesfield | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Maidstone | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Manchester | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mansfield | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Mayors and City | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Medway | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Melton Mowbray | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Teesside | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mold | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Monmouth | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Morpeth | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Neath and Port Talbot | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nelson | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Newark | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Newbury | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Newcastle-upon-Tyne | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Newport (IoW) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Newport (Gwent) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Northampton | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| North Shields | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Northwich | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Norwich | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nottingham | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nuneaton | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Oldham | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Oswestry | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Oxford | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Penrith | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Penzance | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Peterborough | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Plymouth | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pontefract | 4 | 9 | 1 | 0 |
| Pontypool | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pontypridd | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Poole | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Portsmouth | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Preston | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rawtenstall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reading | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Redditch | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reigate | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rhyl | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rotherham | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rugby | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Runcorn | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| St Albans | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| St Helens | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Salford | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Number of interim possession orders issued by each county court[1] in England and Wales, 2007-10 Q3*

| *Court name* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010 Q1-Q3* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Salisbury | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Scarborough | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Scunthorpe | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Sheffield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Shoreditch | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Shrewsbury | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Skegness | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Skipton | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Slough | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Southampton | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Southport | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| South Shields | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Stafford | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Staines | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Northampton Bulk Centre | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Stockport | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Stourbridge | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Stratford | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sunderland | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Swansea | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Swindon | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tamworth | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Taunton | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Thanet | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Torquay | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Trowbridge | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Truro | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Tunbridge Wells | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Uxbridge | 8 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Wakefield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Walsall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wandsworth | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Warrington | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Warwick | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Watford | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Wellingborough | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Telford | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Welshpool and Newton | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| West Bromwich | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| West London | 6 | 3 | 25 | 2 |
| Weston-super-Mare | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Weymouth | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Central London | 0 | 3 | 5 | 0 |
| Whitehaven | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wigan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Willesden | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Winchester | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wolverhampton | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Woolwich | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Worcester | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Workington | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Worksop | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Worthing | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wrexham | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Yeovil | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| York | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Romford | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Milton Keynes | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 86 | 70 | 67 | 47 |

[1] These manually collected data are not quality assured as part of standard statistical processes (except for as mentioned by footnote 3 below) and cannot be verified by data from the main administrative systems in the county courts. The data for Edmonton county court are excluded as they are being subjected to further quality assurance checks.

*Notes:*

1. Data from 2007 to March 2009 were gathered from the Department's Management Information System. Data from April 2009 were collected from the courts online data monitoring system One Performance Truth (OPT).
2. 2010 Q3 is the latest period for which data are available.
3. Quality assurance checks have been carried out to remove outliers. However, these decisions have not been verified by contact with the courts. These figures should therefore be treated with caution.
4. IPOs can be given for the possession of both commercial and residential properties from trespassers.
5. Data for 2010 are provisional.

Source:
Ministry of Justice

## Knives: Convictions

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted of carrying a knife in a public place in each police force area in each year since 1997. [47820]

**Mr Blunt:** The number of persons found guilty at all courts for having an article with blade or point in public place, by police force area in England and Wales, for the years 1997 to 2009 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2010 will be available in the spring of 2011.

*Number of persons found guilty at all courts for the offence of having an article with blade or point in public place, by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2009[1, 2, 3]*

| *Police force area* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000[4]* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008[3]* | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 50 | 68 | 113 | 87 | 104 | 144 | 152 | 146 | 128 | 168 | 163 | 145 | 184 |
| Bedfordshire | 24 | 37 | 23 | 40 | 32 | 40 | 57 | 67 | 77 | 61 | 62 | 71 | 83 |
| Cambridgeshire | 23 | 35 | 31 | 15 | 26 | 46 | 34 | 62 | 54 | 67 | 53 | 77 | 71 |
| Cheshire | 59 | 65 | 52 | 51 | 36 | 54 | 54 | 48 | 80 | 83 | 108 | 95 | 117 |
| City of London | 16 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 17 | 18 | 20 | 18 | 11 | 9 | 6 | 6 |
| Cleveland | 16 | 32 | 31 | 21 | 42 | 69 | 70 | 80 | 71 | 75 | 89 | 118 | 103 |
| Cumbria | 32 | 27 | 37 | 27 | 28 | 37 | 45 | 46 | 50 | 39 | 46 | 37 | 75 |
| Derbyshire | 39 | 31 | 36 | 40 | 53 | 68 | 82 | 99 | 78 | 77 | 99 | 71 | 95 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 46 | 78 | 75 | 69 | 71 | 108 | 128 | 126 | 140 | 119 | 137 | 142 | 165 |

*Number of persons found guilty at all courts for the offence of having an article with blade or point in public place, by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2009*[1, 2, 3]

| *Police force area* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000*[4] | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008*[5] | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dorset | 19 | 41 | 32 | 31 | 32 | 55 | 49 | 59 | 60 | 66 | 62 | 53 | 73 |
| Durham | 25 | 30 | 34 | 42 | 34 | 76 | 64 | 68 | 89 | 91 | 91 | 43 | 84 |
| Essex | 84 | 93 | 96 | 99 | 99 | 103 | 141 | 200 | 174 | 173 | 156 | 144 | 220 |
| Gloucestershire | 16 | 34 | 18 | 17 | 24 | 26 | 32 | 42 | 38 | 38 | 41 | 50 | 61 |
| Greater Manchester | 198 | 239 | 206 | 222 | 280 | 298 | 303 | 344 | 347 | 389 | 390 | 341 | 405 |
| Hampshire | 96 | 110 | 93 | 106 | 113 | 112 | 152 | 174 | 162 | 160 | 169 | 230 | 218 |
| Hertfordshire | 31 | 28 | 28 | 27 | 24 | 53 | 83 | 84 | 91 | 84 | 68 | 52 | 109 |
| Humberside | 44 | 47 | 65 | 53 | 46 | 69 | 63 | 105 | 114 | 123 | 147 | 126 | 159 |
| Kent | 28 | 73 | 84 | 76 | 74 | 33 | 34 | 13 | 12 | 6 | 5 | 83 | 139 |
| Lancashire | 105 | 120 | 96 | 87 | 105 | 98 | 135 | 157 | 149 | 143 | 148 | 129 | 173 |
| Leicestershire | 50 | 65 | 62 | 53 | 65 | 75 | 86 | 97 | 87 | 111 | 115 | 94 | 78 |
| Lincolnshire | 18 | 38 | 54 | 46 | 41 | 50 | 71 | 64 | 53 | 68 | 47 | 88 | 82 |
| Merseyside | 176 | 168 | 131 | 124 | 120 | 159 | 164 | 198 | 197 | 218 | 214 | 202 | 315 |
| Metropolitan police | 1,258 | 1,327 | 1,081 | 1,162 | 1,501 | 1,866 | 1,681 | 1,606 | 1,693 | 1,680 | 1,449 | 1,720 | 1,609 |
| Norfolk | 29 | 50 | 46 | 36 | 41 | 59 | 69 | 70 | 69 | 61 | 77 | 88 | 106 |
| North Yorkshire | 38 | 33 | 45 | 33 | 45 | 52 | 50 | 69 | 65 | 57 | 51 | 40 | 80 |
| Northamptonshire | 6 | 11 | 14 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 31 | 79 |
| Northumbria | 93 | 101 | 114 | 120 | 150 | 169 | 181 | 208 | 212 | 215 | 254 | 230 | 330 |
| Nottinghamshire | 46 | 42 | 45 | 46 | 56 | 68 | 85 | 114 | 117 | 144 | 150 | 144 | 197 |
| South Yorkshire | 53 | 61 | 63 | 65 | 114 | 145 | 147 | 116 | 169 | 149 | 137 | 138 | 185 |
| Staffordshire | 23 | 38 | 42 | [4] | 33 | 68 | 63 | 69 | 60 | 91 | 84 | 56 | 88 |
| Suffolk | 31 | 22 | 26 | 30 | 30 | 61 | 52 | 68 | 68 | 106 | 89 | 37 | 78 |
| Surrey | 17 | 11 | 12 | 25 | 32 | 25 | 37 | 40 | 35 | 37 | 42 | 45 | 66 |
| Sussex | 57 | 65 | 92 | 83 | 100 | 127 | 123 | 114 | 121 | 138 | 140 | 148 | 169 |
| Thames Valley | 60 | 78 | 74 | 53 | 77 | 84 | 75 | 116 | 144 | 177 | 138 | 136 | 236 |
| Warwickshire | 16 | 30 | 24 | 19 | 18 | 26 | 18 | 25 | 23 | 30 | 32 | 50 | 48 |
| West Mercia | 21 | 37 | 21 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 99 | 96 | 100 | 82 | 110 |
| West Midlands | 174 | 149 | 135 | 203 | 318 | 343 | 327 | 356 | 316 | 380 | 390 | 400 | 455 |
| West Yorkshire | 46 | 40 | 56 | 56 | 87 | 103 | 108 | 172 | 166 | 170 | 189 | 223 | 237 |
| Wiltshire | 22 | 36 | 32 | 28 | 36 | 36 | 39 | 50 | 52 | 67 | 48 | 22 | 67 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 16 | 22 | 29 | 27 | 31 | 34 | 36 | 38 | 45 | 29 | 35 | 38 | 40 |
| Gwent | 24 | 18 | 20 | 21 | 20 | 33 | 23 | 47 | 36 | 56 | 66 | 49 | 70 |
| North Wales | 47 | 55 | 60 | 42 | 51 | 74 | 61 | 67 | 77 | 113 | 89 | 85 | 78 |
| South Wales | 69 | 93 | 100 | 82 | 93 | 113 | 111 | 124 | 119 | 153 | 140 | 125 | 193 |
| England and Wales | 3,341 | 3,788 | 3,532 | 3,487 | 4,299 | 5,281 | 5,308 | 5,784 | 5,961 | 6,320 | 6,123 | 6,284 | 7,536 |

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[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following offence description and corresponding statute:
Having an article with blade or point in public place
Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139 as amended by the Offensive Weapons Act 1996

[4] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

[5] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

*Source:*
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

## Magistrates

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of applications to become a justice of the peace were successful in the last three years for which figures are available. [47534]

**Mr Djanogly:** Based on data from 88 of the 101 advisory committees responsible for the recruitment and selection of magistrates in England and Wales, in each of the two years 2007-08 and 2008-09, approximately one third of applicants were successful in becoming a justice of the peace. In 2009-10, approximately one quarter of applicants were successful.

## Plants

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on indoor and outdoor plants and trees since his appointment. [48418]

**Mr Djanogly:** The MoJ does not have a budget for purchasing flowers for its buildings. Some buildings may have plants in reception areas to create a welcoming atmosphere for staff and visitors.

However, it would incur disproportionate costs to go to all the buildings the MOJ and its Executive agencies occupy (over 800 locations across the UK—mainly courts, tribunals, prisons and local offices) to find out if any trees or plants have been bought since May 2010.

### Public Bodies Reform Programme

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10W, on the public bodies reform programme, what estimate he has made of the savings to his Department net of costs incurred in the assumption of additional departmental responsibilities to accrue from *(a)* the abolition of 11 public bodes within his Department's area of responsibility, *(b)* the merger of four such bodies and *(c)* the change in function of four such bodies. [48147]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** I will reply to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

*Substantive answer from Kenneth Clarke to Lisa Nandy:*

On 16 March 2011 the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Frances Maude) issued a Written Ministerial Statement updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that departments estimate cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6bn will flow from public bodies over the Spending Review period.

For the Ministry of Justice, I anticipate net overall cumulative administrative savings from structural reforms over the Spending Review period of £72.1 million. Overall cumulative administrative reductions from reform of all departmental public bodies are estimated to be £74.4 million over the Spending Review period.

## HEALTH

### Freedom of Information

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to extend the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to GP pathfinder consortia. [48216]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Throughout 2011-12, a growing number of groups of general practitioner (GP) practices will become pathfinder consortia, and start to take on increasing responsibilities for commissioning on behalf of primary care trusts (PCTs) within the current statutory framework. PCTs will remain statutorily responsible and accountable during the transition period and will continue to be subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Commissioning consortia established in accordance with the provisions proposed by the Health and Social Care Bill would be statutory public bodies and will become fully statutorily accountable from April 2013 onwards. The Bill amends the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to include commissioning consortia.

### Blood: Diseases

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he has given to the merits of screening for pathogens for those at greater risk of being infected with such pathogens as a result of having received pooled blood products for the treatment of bleeding disorders. [46376]

**Anne Milton:** Clinicians are best placed to advise their patients and offer any appropriately validated tests that they believe to be necessary.

### Blood: Contamination

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he has given to the merits of screening those infected with hepatitis C for the extra-hepatic manifestations identified in the Government's recent review of contaminated blood products. [46375]

**Anne Milton:** We would expect the need for investigation of possible extra-hepatic manifestations of chronic hepatitis C infection to be considered on an individual patient basis as part of clinical care.

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason he has maintained the classification of the hepatitis C virus in two stages; and if he will make a statement. [46377]

**Anne Milton:** The two-stage payment scheme for eligible individuals with chronic hepatitis C infection, has been maintained because of expert advice on the impact on life expectancy and quality of life of those individuals with chronic hepatitis C infection and of those individuals who go on to develop related serious liver disease.

The "Review of the support available to individuals infected with Hepatitis C and/or HIV by NHS supplied blood transfusions or blood products and their dependants", which has already been placed in the Library, has further details on this.

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has plans to end the two-stage system of classification of Hepatitis C for patients who suffer from a bleeding condition or a condition which increases the risks arising from the liver biopsy required to ascertain whether a patient is in stage 1 or stage 2 of the disease. [47306]

**Anne Milton:** There are no plans to change the current two-stage system of classification of hepatitis C, for individuals applying to the Skipton Fund. The two-stage payment scheme for eligible individuals with chronic hepatitis C infection, is based on an expert review of the impact on life expectancy and quality of life of those individuals with chronic hepatitis C infection and of those individuals who go on to develop related serious liver disease. The "Review of the support available to individuals infected with Hepatitis C and/or HIV by NHS supplied blood transfusions or blood products and their dependants", which has already been placed in the Library, has further details on this.

Patients have never been required to undergo a liver biopsy in to establish whether they may be eligible for a stage 2 payment. There is a range of evidence that can be provided, including the results of liver function tests, ultrasound scans and radiological examinations.

### Brain Cancer: Children

**Christopher Pincher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to increase his Department's funding allocation for specialist care for children with brain tumours during the current Parliament. [47831]

**Paul Burstow:** It is currently the responsibility of primary care trusts to commission services for the care of children with brain tumours from their funding allocations, including specialist care. From 2013-14, the National Health Service Commissioning Board (CB), will take over responsibility for commissioning guidelines and the allocation of resources from the Department.

During the transition to the NHS CB, the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation, an independent committee comprising general practitioners (GPs), academics and NHS managers, will continue to oversee the formulae for the distribution of NHS resources. Further detail on the allocations and processes will be announced in due course.

"Improving Outcomes - A Strategy for Cancer", published on 12 January 2011, sets out a range of measures to improve outcomes for all patients, including children with brain tumours. A copy has already been placed in the Library. Backed by more than £750 million over the next four years, the Strategy sets out our plans to improve earlier diagnosis, access to screening and treatment and improve patients' experience of care.

This Strategy includes £150 million for the expansion of radiotherapy services, which includes funding for proton beam therapy (PBT). PBT is a very precise form of radiotherapy which has been shown to deliver improved outcomes and reduced acute and late effects in treating children with cancer, including those with brain tumours.

The Strategy also confirmed that the principles in "Improving Outcomes in Children and Young People with Cancer", published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, will continue to be a feature of all commissioned services. This guidance serves to assist NHS trusts in planning, commissioning and organising services for children and young people with cancer.

### Cancer

**Dr Wollaston:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps his Department has taken to increase the provision of *(a)* cancer services and *(b)* mental health services in South Devon. [47796]

**Paul Burstow:** We expect the national health service in South Devon to comply with the national policies on increasing the availability of cancer and mental health services. The national policies are outlined as follows:

> 'Improving Outcomes—A Strategy for Cancer', published on 12 January 2011, sets out a range of measures to improve the quality and efficiency of cancer services in England. Backed by more than £750 million over the next four years, the strategy sets out the Department's plans to improve earlier diagnosis, access to screening and treatment and improve patients' experience of care.
>
> The Department published the national 'No Health Without Mental Health' Strategy on 2 February 2011. It has the twin aims of promoting and sustaining good mental health and well-being in the wider population, and improving the quality of existing services for people across the full range of mental health problems. It looks at prevalence of problems and effective approaches at different stages in life, stressing the importance of prevention and early intervention.

Copies of both publications have already been placed in the Library.

### Cataracts Treatment

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will re-introduce an 18-week waiting time target for cataract treatment; and if he will make a statement. [47611]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The right to start consultant-led treatment, including consultant-led cataract treatment, within maximum waiting times remains in the NHS constitution as set out in the NHS Operating Framework for 2011-12. Commissioners should ensure that waiting times performance does not deteriorate and, where possible improves during 2011-12.

### Commission on Assisted Dying

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has been requested by the Commission on Assisted Dying to submit *(a)* oral and *(b)* written evidence to its inquiry; and if he will make a statement. [47705]

**Paul Burstow:** Professor Sir Mike Richards, National Clinical Director for End of Life Care, has met with the Commission to inform them of progress in implementing the End of Life Care Strategy. The Department has received no requests for written information.

### Equality and Excellence: Liberating the NHS

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 2.22 of his Department's White Paper, Equality and Excellence: liberating the NHS, Cm 7881, July 2010, if he will make an assessment of personal health budget pilots and their effect on welfare provision. [47853]

**Paul Burstow:** An independent evaluation of the personal health budgets pilot programme is being led by the personal and social services research unit at the university of Kent. The overarching aim of the evaluation is to identify if personal health budgets ensure better health and social care outcomes when compared to conventional service delivery, and how they should be implemented. It does not include analysis of their effect on welfare provision. Full details of the evaluation can be found at:

www.phbe.org.uk

Personal health budgets are not income, and are not counted as such when calculating tax obligations or benefit eligibility, even when paid in cash to an individual as a direct payment.

### Health Education: Schools

**Mr Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to issue an invitation for expressions of interest in the Healthy Schools Programme. [48258]

**Anne Milton:** The Department of Health expects to publicly request expressions of interest for running Healthy Schools late in spring of 2011.

## Health Services

**David Mowat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to make a decision on the recommendations from the Co-operation and Competition Panel on regional health commissioning in the North West following the complaint from Hanover Healthcare; and if he will make a statement. [47523]

**Paul Burstow:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Carshalton and Wallington (Tom Brake) on 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1156W.

## Health Services: Privatisation

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* conducted and *(b)* commissioned which supports the proposition that the privatisation of healthcare providers will increase performance and healthcare provision. [47850]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Government reject the notion that we are pursuing a programme of privatisation. We have no plans to privatise national health service providers, indeed this is not Government policy. Accordingly, there has been no research commissioned or conducted on this.

## Heart Diseases: Children

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential risks arising from increased journey times to children's heart surgery units. [47625]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Journey times have been looked at extensively as part of the review process. All of the options comply with the standards developed in 2010 by the Paediatric Intensive Care Society that stipulate maximum journey times for children who require emergency retrieval by ambulance.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what opportunity hospital trusts had to *(a)* comment on and *(b)* suggest corrections to the assessments undertaken by Sir Ian Kennedy in respect of children's heart surgery units before the options for consultation were finalised. [47626]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The interim findings were shared with the centres in August 2010. Responses received by the national review team from the centres were shared with Sir Ian Kennedy's panel members so that the panel could consider how to use this information in the preparation of its final report to the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts in December 2010.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the merits of co-locating services for treatment and follow-on care of children's heart surgery patients. [47627]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Sir Ian Kennedy and his panel assessed the centres on the co-location requirements with reference to the accepted definition of co-location as set out in 'Commissioning safe and sustainable specialised paediatric services: a framework of critical inter-dependencies'.

This guidance, in addition to clarifying that co-location means services either on the same hospital site or on a neighbouring hospital site, also sets out which services should be co-located. The relevant professional associations endorse the guidance.

Sir Ian's findings and recommendations, including those on the extent to which the centres meet the co-location requirements, have been considered by the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts in its deliberations. Sir Ian's full report is in the public domain and is available on the NHS Specialised Services website at:

www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/safeandsustainable

The review also proposes to reduce journey times for non-surgical care by bringing assessment and follow-on care closer to home through the development of congenital heart networks.

## Heart Diseases: Surgery

**Charlotte Leslie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on cardiac surgical outcomes; and if he will take steps to maintain adequate time for the collection and benchmarking of data related to such outcomes in the job plans of consultants. [48134]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department has received one representation about cardiac surgical outcomes.

The White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' set out how the Government would introduce a new system of accountability for the national health service based around the outcomes achieved for patients. As part of this, the first ever NHS Outcomes Framework was published on 20 December 2010.

The collection and benchmarking of data on quality and outcomes in all clinical areas is an integral part of raising standards. However, it is for NHS organisations locally to ensure that clinicians have the time to participate in such activities.

## Histiocytosis

**Christopher Pincher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department funds research into histiocytosis. [47828]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government supports medical and clinical research. The MRC is a non-departmental public body that receives its grant in aid from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The MRC provided funding for a recently completed research project entitled 'Homeostasis of Langerhans and Dendritic Cells in Health and Disease'.

The Department's National Institute for Health Research welcomes applications for support into any aspect of human health. Funding is dependent on the volume and quality of scientific activity. The Department is not currently funding research specifically on histiocytosis.

**Christopher Pincher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each agency or non-departmental public body for which it is responsible plans to raise awareness of histiocytosis among (a) health practitioners and (b) the wider public. [47832]

**Mr Simon Burns:** There are no such plans. Information about histiocytosis for health practitioners and patients is available from a number of sources, including "Clinical Knowledge Summaries" on NHS Evidence and the website Patient UK.

### HIV Infection

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he has given to the merits of introducing two stages of classification of HIV; and if he will make a statement. [46378]

**Anne Milton:** No consideration was given to the introduction of two stages of classification for HIV.

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will publish the submissions he has received in the course of his Department's recent review of the *(a)* morbidity and *(b)* quality of life of those diagnosed with HIV following the administration of contaminated blood products by the NHS; [47841]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* morbidity and *(b)* quality of life of those diagnosed with HIV following the administration of contaminated blood products by the NHS. [47842]

**Anne Milton:** Hepatitis C was the focus of the terms of reference of the review in relation to the level of ex gratia payments. No submissions were received from independent experts on the morbidity and quality of life of patients infected only with HIV by contaminated national health service supplied blood and blood products, and no assessment of those issues was made, during the course of the review.

However, the expert group which provided advice on the spectrum and impact of disease associated with hepatitis C infection was asked to consider the comparison of living with HIV. The final report of the review (a copy of which has already been placed in the Library) acknowledges that the advent of more effective anti-retroviral therapy has improved the quality of life of individuals with HIV, and is likely to markedly improve the prognosis for their hepatitis C infection.

### Meat: Hygiene

**Guto Bebb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the potential effect of proposed charges to recover the costs of meat hygiene inspection on the independent meat industry in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* Great Britain; [47741]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of small and medium-sized abattoirs in Wales at risk of closure as a result of proposed charges for the recovery of the cost of meat hygiene inspections; [47742]

(3) what proportion of the cost of complying with proposed charges for recovery of the cost of meat hygiene inspection he estimates will be met by (*a*) the abattoir and (*b*) customers. [47777]

**Anne Milton:** The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has consulted across the United Kingdom on proposals for full cost recovery by removal of current discounts, with options for a phased introduction and a reduction in charges for low throughput businesses.

On the basis of the information available prior to the consultation, the FSA estimated that full cost recovery for meat controls would cost the Welsh meat industry approximately £2.2 million, and the meat industry across Great Britain approximately £29.41 million. Of these amounts, the FSA estimates that £1.14 million would be attributable to low throughput, small, and medium meat plants in Wales, and £17.92 million would be attributable to low throughput, small and medium meat plants across Great Britain. The term 'independent meat industry' has been interpreted as meaning the smaller scale businesses, and the low throughput, small and medium meat plants have been used as a proxy.

The FSA has identified 10 abattoirs in the small category in Wales which are considered most likely to feel the greatest impact of the proposed changes. Meetings or telephone discussions took place with nine of these businesses, and views expressed will be included in the consultation process.

In the draft impact assessment[1], the FSA notes constraints on the potential to pass costs forward along the supply chain, and has assumed that slaughterhouses will absorb approximately one-third of the cost associated with full recovery charging and farmers the remaining two-thirds. The FSA is currently refining the impact assessment in light of information received in responses to the consultation.

141 written consultation responses have been received across UK, 20 in Wales, including 11 from Welsh slaughterhouses of varying sizes. A number of stakeholder meetings have also taken place, and views expressed at these meetings have been captured. FSA is in the process of giving detailed consideration to all comments prior to determining its advice to Government.

[1] The FSA impact assessment has been published on the FSA website at:

http://food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/consultation/meatcharges1110eng.pdf

### Medicine: Education

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many training places for medical students there were in each higher education institution in the academic year *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; how many he expects there to be in the academic year 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [48455]

**Anne Milton:** The number of medical undergraduate places is agreed with the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) periodically. The current agreement is for around 6,200 places to be available in England each year.

The information (from HEFCE) in the following tables shows the intake of medical students (including overseas students) in each higher education institution (HEI) in the academic year 2009-10, provisional intake for 2010-11 and target numbers for 2011-12.

*Intake of medical students (including overseas students) in 2009-10*

| *HEI* | *Intake* |
|---|---|
| University of Birmingham | 428 |
| University of Brighton[1] | 147 |
| University of Bristol | 268 |
| University of Cambridge | 306 |
| University of East Anglia | 169 |
| University of Hull[2] | 160 |
| Imperial College | 309 |
| Keele University | 135 |
| King's College London | 417 |
| University of Leeds[3] | 280 |
| University of Leicester | 284 |
| University of Liverpool | 397 |
| University of Manchester | 406 |
| University of Newcastle[4] | 357 |
| University of Nottingham | 348 |
| University of Oxford | 185 |
| Peninsula School of Medicine and Dentistry[5] | 218 |
| Queen Mary, University of London | 387 |
| St George's Hospital Medical School | 274 |
| University of Sheffield | 255 |
| University of Southampton | 252 |
| University College London | 285 |
| University of Warwick | 186 |
| Total | 6,453 |

*Provisional intake of medical students (including overseas students) in 2010-11*

| *HEI* | *Intake* |
|---|---|
| University of Birmingham | 375 |
| University of Brighton[1] | 139 |
| University of Bristol | 261 |
| University of Cambridge | 307 |
| University of East Anglia | 167 |
| University of Hull[2] | 152 |
| Imperial College | 381 |
| Keele University | 137 |
| King's College London | 401 |
| University of Leeds[3] | 275 |
| University of Leicester | 273 |
| University of Liverpool | 422 |
| University of Manchester | 376 |
| University of Newcastle[4] | 369 |
| University of Nottingham | 347 |
| University of Oxford | 185 |
| Peninsula School of Medicine and Dentistry[5] | 222 |
| Queen Mary, University of London | 286 |
| St George's Hospital Medical School | 248 |
| University of Sheffield | 272 |
| University of Southampton | 254 |
| University College London | 333 |
| University of Warwick | 187 |
| Total | 6,369 |

*Target number of training places for medical students (including overseas students) 2011-12*

| *HEI* | *Target* |
|---|---|
| University of Birmingham | 385 |
| University of Brighton[1] | 138 |
| University of Bristol | 256 |
| University of Cambridge | 299 |
| University of East Anglia | 168 |
| University of Hull[2] | 141 |
| Imperial College | 330 |
| Keele University | 139 |
| King's College London | 415 |
| University of Leeds[3] | 263 |
| University of Leicester | 245 |
| University of Liverpool | 371 |
| University of Manchester | 372 |
| University of Newcastle[4] | 352 |
| University of Nottingham | 336 |
| University of Oxford | 186 |
| Peninsula School of Medicine and Dentistry[5] | 216 |
| Queen Mary, University of London | 324 |
| St George's Hospital Medical School | 264 |
| University of Sheffield | 241 |
| University of Southampton | 246 |
| University College London | 330 |
| University of Warwick | 178 |
| Total | 6,195 |

[1] University of Brighton submitted a joint return with the University of Sussex.

[2] University of Hull submitted a joint return with the University of York.

[3] University of Leeds submitted a joint return with the University of Bradford.

[4] University of Newcastle and Durham submitted separately but for comparison purposes have been combined here.

[5] Joint return by University of Plymouth and University of Exeter as Peninsula School of Medicine and Dentistry.

*Source:*
HEFCE

## NHS Accountability

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of the existing framework of primary care trusts, strategic health authorities and other organisations to achieving the Government's aims for efficiency, accountability and quality in the NHS. [47852]

**Mr Simon Burns:** When developing the White Paper "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS" the Government considered whether their aims could be achieved through the existing framework of primary care trusts (PCTs) and strategic health authorities (SHAs), and concluded that they could not.

First, PCTs and SHAs lack accountability. The Government's proposals will bring together elected councillors with decision-makers from the national health service, public health and social care on new health and well-being boards within local authorities. This will radically improve local democratic legitimacy, in a more effective and cost-effective way than the original proposal in the coalition agreement of introducing elected members on to PCT boards.

Second, our proposals will improve the quality of commissioning, which under the current system has failed to deliver sufficient improvements in outcomes for patients. General practitioner (GP) consortia will bring clinical expertise, with decisions made closer to patients, while a stronger role for local councils will bring greater expertise in assessing population needs, and greater integration between local services.

Third, our aim is to decentralise decision-making, to free front-line professionals from political interference and central targets that distort local priorities. It is not possible to achieve this aim through the hierarchical structure of SHAs and PCTs, which are entirely subject to the direction of Ministers. The Health and Social Care Bill creates a transparent legal framework where local organisations have their own clearly defined functions, with no ability for Ministers to micromanage.

Fourth, the management costs of PCTs and SHAs have risen disproportionately and are not sustainable. The Government's plans will cut administration spending, saving £1.7 billion every year from 2014-15, to reinvest in front-line NHS services. Savings on this scale would not be possible while retaining the superstructure of PCTs and SHAs.

PCT and SHA staff will continue to play an important role during the transition. They will increasingly be involved in supporting the emerging GP consortia to ensure that existing skills are retained.

## NHS Contracts

**Mr Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to reduce barriers to the award of NHS contracts to small and medium-sized enterprises. [48257]

**Mr Simon Burns:** In terms of suppliers of goods and non-clinical services to the national health service, the Department is currently considering a number of measures to reduce the burden such suppliers face bidding for NHS contracts. These will be announced as part of 'The Growth Review' which will be published shortly by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS).

In terms of suppliers of clinical services to the NHS, the Government's policy is that for most services, patients will have a choice of 'any willing provider'. This will involve a qualification process for providers and means the need for tendering by commissioners for such services should diminish considerably. In addition, it is expected that the NHS Commissioning Board, when established, will be reviewing contracting and procurement procedures to both simplify them and ensure a greater focus on quality.

## NHS Performance Standards

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* conducted and *(b)* commissioned which supports the proposition that establishing an independent commissioning board will increase performance and healthcare provision in the NHS. [47851]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Health and Social Care Bill builds on many of the reforms introduced by the previous Government and is based on setting the conditions to ensure quality and productivity increase in the national health service.

An independent commissioning board will be free to allocate resources in the best interests of patients based on clinical evidence, free from political distractions.

The consultation White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" set out the Government's vision to create a more autonomous and accountable NHS. We took on board responses which gave overall support for the health reforms outlined in the Command Paper "Liberating the NHS: legislative framework and next steps". The impact assessment that was published alongside the Health and Social Care Bill in January details expected impacts arising from the reforms.

Copies have already been placed in the Library.

## NHS Surgery

**Charlotte Leslie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the *(a)* collection and *(b)* publication of NHS (i) surgical audit and (ii) clinical outcome data; and what timetable he has set for this exercise. [47747]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The "NHS Outcomes Framework 2011/12" sets the direction for the national health service in focusing on outcomes, and sets out the high level outcomes, which the NHS as a whole will be aiming to achieve. Data for all of the indicators in the NHS Outcomes Framework will be published in an open and transparent way.

It is too early to provide complete details of how outcome data will be collected, but the majority of the outcome indicators are based upon existing data sources. During 2011-12, we will work to refine the indicators in the framework as well as finalising the approaches to measuring and reporting outcomes. We anticipate this detail will be included in the second NHS Outcomes Framework published for 2012-13.

The Department funds the national clinical audit and patient outcomes programme, comprising 30 national clinical audits covering a range of clinical conditions and interventions. The programme will be extended during 2011-12 to a wider range of conditions and interventions. However, the national clinical audits work independently of the Department. The audit suppliers determine methodologies, data collections and the timing of publications.

More generally, we are currently analysing responses to the consultation document "Liberating the NHS: An Information Revolution" and a Government response will be produced in due course. In this document, we stated our intention to move to a culture in information characterised by openness, transparency and comparability.

## Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

**Jack Lopresti:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in *(a)* the reform of the prescription charging system and *(b)* the extension of categories of long-term chronic conditions which are exempt from such charges. [47678]

**Mr Simon Burns:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 17 March 2011, *Official Report,* columns 630-631W, to the hon. Member for Hove (Mike Weatherley).

## Respiratory System: Children

**Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were admitted to hospital due to a respiratory condition in *(a)* England and *(b)* each primary care trust area in the last year for which figures are available. [47541]

**Anne Milton:** The table shows the number of finished admission episodes (FAEs) where the primary diagnosis was diseases of the respiratory system for the under 18 age group in England and by primary care trust (PCT) in 2009-10.

*A count of FAEs where there was a primary diagnosis of diseases of the respiratory system for the age group 18 and under in England and PCT of main provider for 2009-10; Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector*

| | *PCT of main provider* | *18 and under* |
|---|---|---|
| *England* | | 228,481 |
| | South Gloucestershire PCT | 128 |
| | Havering PCT | 1,920 |
| | Kingston PCT | 864 |
| | Barnet PCT | 1,660 |
| | Hillingdon PCT | 617 |
| | Enfield PCT | 474 |
| | City and Hackney Teaching PCT | 939 |
| | Tower Hamlets PCT | 1,294 |
| | Newham PCT | 666 |
| | Blackburn with Darwen PCT | 3,893 |
| | Herefordshire PCT | 933 |
| | Milton Keynes PCT | 1,462 |
| | Newcastle PCT | 2,614 |
| | North Tyneside PCT | 1,347 |
| | Hartlepool PCT | 1,657 |
| | Nottingham City PCT | 1,915 |
| | Plymouth Teaching PCT | 2,151 |
| | Salford PCT | 733 |
| | Stockport PCT | 1,853 |
| | Portsmouth City Teaching PCT | 2,814 |
| | Bath and North East Somerset PCT | 1,322 |
| | Luton PCT | 2,260 |
| | Rotherham PCT | 1,258 |
| | Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT | 898 |
| | Blackpool PCT | 1,054 |
| | Bolton PCT | 2,424 |
| | Ealing PCT | 865 |
| | Hounslow PCT | 900 |
| | Warrington PCT | 1,434 |
| | Knowsley PCT | 1,576 |
| | Darlington PCT | 2,521 |
| | Barnsley PCT | 1,242 |
| | Swindon PCT | 1,317 |
| | Brent Teaching PCT | 2,119 |
| | Camden PCT | 2,798 |
| | Islington PCT | 589 |
| | Croydon PCT | 779 |
| | Gateshead PCT | 1,157 |
| | South Tyneside PCT | 753 |
| | Sunderland Teaching PCT | 1,747 |
| | Middlesbrough PCT | 2,748 |
| | Southampton City PCT | 2,210 |
| | Medway PCT | 2,343 |
| | Kensington and Chelsea PCT | 1,518 |
| | Westminster PCT | 1,366 |
| | Lambeth PCT | 870 |
| | Southwark PCT | 1,757 |
| | Lewisham PCT | 1,209 |
| | Wandsworth PCT | 972 |
| | Tameside and Glossop PCT | 1,520 |
| | Brighton and Hove City PCT | 1,123 |
| | South Birmingham PCT | 105 |
| | Shropshire County PCT | 1,945 |
| | Walsall Teaching PCT | 880 |
| | Sutton and Merton PCT | 1,171 |
| | North Somerset PCT | 237 |
| | Coventry Teaching PCT | 1,612 |
| | Wolverhampton City PCT | 1,960 |
| | Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT | 5,822 |
| | Leeds PCT | 2,621 |
| | Kirklees PCT | 2,328 |
| | Wakefield District PCT | 2,759 |
| | Sheffield PCT | 3,548 |
| | Doncaster PCT | 2,638 |
| | Derbyshire County PCT | 1,335 |
| | Derby City PCT | 1,414 |
| | Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT | 1,364 |
| | Lincolnshire Teaching PCT | 2,117 |
| | Waltham Forest PCT | 1,367 |
| | Cumbria Teaching PCT | 3,441 |
| | Central Lancashire PCT | 2,387 |
| | East Lancashire Teaching PCT | 11 |
| | Sefton PCT | 1,322 |
| | Wirral PCT | 1,828 |
| | Liverpool PCT | 6,431 |
| | Western Cheshire PCT | 1,385 |
| | Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT | 2,261 |
| | Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT | — |
| | Trafford PCT | 455 |
| | Manchester PCT | 8,592 |
| | North Yorkshire and York PCT | 2,641 |
| | East Riding of Yorkshire PCT | — |
| | Hull Teaching PCT | 1,640 |
| | Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT | 3,111 |
| | South East Essex PCT | 659 |
| | Bedfordshire PCT | 470 |
| | East and North Hertfordshire PCT | 1,459 |
| | West Hertfordshire PCT | 859 |
| | Surrey PCT | 4,534 |
| | West Sussex PCT | 1,646 |
| | Hastings and Rother PCT | 1,549 |
| | West Kent PCT | 2,686 |
| | Leicester City PCT | 4,599 |
| | Northamptonshire Teaching PCT | 3,489 |
| | Dudley PCT | 1,697 |
| | Birmingham East and North PCT | 4,183 |
| | Stoke on Trent PCT | 3,353 |

*A count of FAEs where there was a primary diagnosis of diseases of the respiratory system for the age group 18 and under in England and PCT of main provider for 2009-10; Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector*

*PCT of main provider* *18 and under*

*A count of FAEs where there was a primary diagnosis of diseases of the respiratory system for the age group 18 and under in England and PCT of main provider for 2009-10: Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector*

| *PCT of main provider* | *18 and under* |
|---|---|
| South Staffordshire PCT | 2,698 |
| Worcestershire PCT | 2,276 |
| Warwickshire PCT | 1,161 |
| Peterborough PCT | 1,840 |
| Cambridgeshire PCT | 2,164 |
| Norfolk PCT | 2,970 |
| Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT | 797 |
| Suffolk PCT | 2,622 |
| West Essex PCT | 665 |
| North East Essex PCT | 1,348 |
| Mid Essex PCT | 955 |
| South West Essex PCT | 879 |
| Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT | 2,224 |
| Hampshire PCT | 1,873 |
| Buckinghamshire PCT | 1,356 |
| Oxfordshire PCT | 1,711 |
| Berkshire West PCT | 1,792 |
| Berkshire East PCT | 1,611 |
| Gloucestershire PCT | 2,172 |
| Bristol PCT | 2,587 |
| Wiltshire PCT | 647 |
| Somerset PCT | 1,700 |
| Dorset PCT | 617 |
| Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT | 2,231 |
| Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT | 2,292 |
| Devon PCT | 2,034 |
| Isle of Wight NHS PCT | 420 |
| Bexley Care Trust | 1,833 |
| Torbay Care Trust | 765 |
| North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus | 1,747 |

*Notes:*

1. *Finished admission episodes (FAE)*

A FAE is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

2. *Primary diagnosis*

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and 7 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

ICD:10 codes used;

J00-J99 Diseases of the respiratory system

3. *PCT of main provider*

This indicates the PCT area within which the organisation providing treatment was located.

*Source:*

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES). The WHS Information Centre for health and social care.

## South London NHS Trust

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the performance against objectives for productivity in the hospitals of the South London NHS Trust in the latest period for which figures are available. [47533]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Performance data collected centrally are published on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/Performancedataandstatistics/index.htm

This includes data on the performance of hospitals of the South London NHS Trust. The national health service is finalising integrated plans which will set out proposals for the NHS to meet the quality and productivity challenge of realising up to £20 billion of efficiency savings by 2014-15 while driving up the quality of services they provide. All savings will be reinvested back in front line care. These plans will be submitted to the Department by 25 March 2011 as set out in the 2011-12 Operating Framework.

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent reports he has received on the adequacy of staffing at the hospitals of the South London Healthcare NHS Trust. [47535]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and adult social care services in England. Providers of regulated activities must be registered with CQC, and comply with registration requirements regulations that set out essential levels of safety and quality. CQC assesses how trusts comply with these legal requirements and it has the power to impose a range of sanctions where breaches are found. CQC published its review of South London Healthcare NHS Trust on 14 January 2011. It found moderate concerns for the three staffing standards which were assessed.

## Squatting

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many buildings on his Department's estate were occupied by squatters in each year between 2006 and 2010; and on how many occasions his Department sought interim possession orders to remove squatters from such buildings in each of those years. [47614]

**Mr Simon Burns:** In 2006 one property on the Department's estate was occupied by squatters and a Possession Order obtained. In 2007 two properties were occupied of which a Possession Order was obtained on one. The properties have now been sold.

## Tobacco: Young People

**Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the effect on the health of young people of secondhand tobacco smoke in confined spaces; [47538]

(2) what steps he is taking to reduce the level of exposure of children to secondhand tobacco smoke in cars. [47539]

**Anne Milton:** The Tobacco Control Plan for England, published on 9 March 2011, sets out the action Government will take across the six internationally recognised strands that make up a comprehensive, approach to tobacco control. This includes protection from exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke. The Plan is informed by The Impact of Smokefree Legislation in England an academic review of the evidence on the effectiveness of the 2006 smokefree law (which was published alongside the Plan) and by Passive Smoking and children: a report of the Royal College of Physicians. The reports include evidence of the impact of the law on the exposure of children to secondhand smoke.

Although the exposure of children to secondhand tobacco smoke has come down in recent years, there is no room for complacency. We want smokers to change their behaviour so as to make sure that they do not harm those around them, particularly children in the home or in family cars. We will work with national media to raise awareness of the risks in exposing children to secondhand smoke. The Department's new marketing strategy for tobacco control will set out further details of how we will support efforts to encourage smokefree homes and family cars.

A copy of both Departmental publications have already been placed in the Library.

## EDUCATION

### Academies

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many officials of his Department are employed or contracted to work with schools considering becoming or seeking to become Academies. [38484]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 4 February 2011]:* There are currently 59 full-time equivalent officials working exclusively in the Department's Academy Converter Division. Of these staff, the majority are Project Leads who work directly with schools seeking information about becoming an Academy or which have applied to convert.

**Stephen McPartland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to allow academies access to his Department's eligibility checking service. [46780]

**Mr Gibb:** The Department for Education has worked closely with other Government Departments to develop a free school meals eligibility checking system (ECS). This has made it much easier for parents to apply for free school meals (FSM) and to reduce the stigma that can be associated with applying for them. The ECS enables local authorities to check data simultaneously from the Department for Work and Pensions, Home Office and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs in order to ascertain whether a parent qualifies for FSM and removes the need for paper proof of benefit. An increasing number of local authorities allow parents to apply online for FSM and receive immediate notification of their eligibility.

The ECS reduces the burdens on schools associated with FSM administration. This is as a direct result of a Cabinet Office study and report that called for a reduction in the involvement of school staff on administering FSM. As a consequence, the use of the ECS is restricted to local authorities.

Academies receive funding for FSM processing through their funding formula. Local authorities may check FSM eligibility on behalf of academies and schools and are entitled to charge for this service. Where an authority decides to charge, we would expect the charges to be reasonable so that parents of pupils in academies are also able to benefit from the ECS.

**Mark Reckless:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of progress on schools acquiring academy status in *(a)* Rochester and Strood constituency and *(b)* England. [47188]

**Mr Gibb:** At present, six schools in the Rochester and Strood constituency have expressed an interest in becoming an academy. Of these, The Rochester Grammar School and Fort Pitt Grammar School, have signed funding agreements in place and opened as academies on 1 November 2010. The Sir Joseph Williamson Mathematical School has an academy order and is due to convert soon. In addition, The Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive School is due to open as a sponsored academy on 1 September 2011. The Strood Academy opened as a sponsored academy in September 2009.

In England, as of 4 March the total number of academies now open is 467, of which 264 opened since September 2010, and 195 of these are converters.

Full details of schools that have formally applied for academy status, as well as a list of academies that have opened in the academic year 2010/11 can be found on the Department of Education's academies website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies/a0069811/schools-submitting-applications-and-academies-that-have-opened-in-201011

### Academies: Rotherham

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will place in the Library a copy of the proposal he has received for the Three Valleys Independent Academy, Rotherham. [45360]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 10 March 2011]:* We intend to publish the funding agreements of successful free school proposals in due course because that is the point at which a project will definitely be going ahead.

### Adoption

**Mr Burley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to review guidance on forced adoption. [44205]

**Tim Loughton:** The term 'forced adoption' is a misleading one. The law and guidance on adoption make clear that children cannot be adopted without their parents' consent unless the court is satisfied that the welfare of the child requires their consent to be dispensed with. We have no plans to change this position but I am currently looking at ways we can ensure that contested adoptions are handled fairly and be seen to be handled fairly and always in the best interests of the child.

### Building Schools for the Future Programme

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether any Building Schools for the Future projects which had reached financial close have since had their funding reduced. [14007]

**Mr Gibb:** When he announced the specific school projects that were cleared to go ahead under the Building Schools for the Future programme, the Secretary of State also announced that he would continue to look at the scope for savings in all these projects. To that end, Partnerships for Schools has been working with local authorities on a case by case basis to identify potential savings.

Projects which had reached financial close when the process of identifying potential savings began have not subsequently had their funding reduced.

## CAFCASS

**Mr Brine:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average time taken was for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service to *(a)* process and *(b)* complete care cases referred to it in the latest period for which figures are available. [47045]

**Tim Loughton:** The support that CAFCASS provides through the appointment of guardians is only one of the factors that contributes to the length of care proceedings. In public law the most reliable measure of case duration is the Ministry of Justice figures showing the average time from when a care application is made to the courts to its completion. Across all levels of court, the average case duration for care proceedings in England and Wales for the period June to September 2010—the latest period for which figures are available—was 51 weeks.

## Child Services: Finance

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what funding his Department allocated to Sure Start children's centres in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; [40703]

(2) what funding his Department allocated to the Disabled Children Short Breaks scheme in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; [40705]

(3) what funding his Department allocated to the Children's Fund in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; [40606]

(4) what funding his Department allocated to the Early Years Workforce in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; [40699]

(5) what funding his Department allocated to the Early Years Sustainability schemes in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; [40700]

(6) what funding his Department allocated to the Two Year Old Offer in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; [40706]

(7) what funding his Department allocated to the Challenge and Support scheme in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and (c) 2010-11; [40709]

(8) what funding his Department allocated to the Intensive Intervention Grant in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; [40712]

(9) what funding his Department allocated to the Children's Social Care Workforce in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; [40713]

(10) what funding his Department allocated to Key Stage 4 Foundation Learning in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; [40714]

(11) what funding his Department allocated for the Child Trust Fund as part of the Early Intervention Grants in financial years *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [41275]

**Sarah Teather:** The following table sets out the funding allocations for each of these programmes in 2008-09, 2009-10-and 2010-11.

*£ million*

| *DfE grants to local authorities* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Grant (SSEYCG)[1, 2] | 626,630,517 | 607,180,130 | 666,595,113 |
| Sure Start Children's Centres Funding (SSLP and CCs element)[3, 5] | 966,164,392 | 1,192,142,034 | 1,236,147,890 |
| Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC) (SSEYCG) | 22,363,495 | 112,927,387 | 237,146,050 |
| 2 Year Old Offer—Early Learning and Child Care (SSEYCG) | 16,994,418 | 58,306,293 | 66,744,167 |
| Foundation Learning[4] | 17,000,131 | 18,522,649 | 19,881,920 |
| Challenge and Support Grant | 5,200,000 | 3,900,000 | 3,900,000 |
| Intensive Intervention Project | 1,074,897 | 2,596,482 | 2,800,000 |
| Children's Fund | 131,804,428 | 131,804,428 | 131,804,428 |
| Children's Social Care Workforce[6] | 18,155,996 | 18,156,004 | 18,156,008 |
| Child Trust Fund | 818,970 | 1,122,023 | 1,325,269 |

[1] Includes all revenue and capital funding paid via SSEYCG excluding Children's Centres element and Sure Start Local Programmes (SSLP), AHDC and 2 year old offer blocks, which are listed separately

[2] The Early Years Sustainability and Early Years Workforce categorisations were not in existence for the spending review period 2008-11. Funding which came directly from the Department to support these areas was included within the SSEYCG. Other funding for the Early Years Workforce came indirectly via CWDC and other organisations.

[3] Includes revenue and capital funding.

[4] Formerly Key Stage 4 Engagement Programme.

[5] Published allocations for Sure Start Children's Centres are not individually ring-fenced within the main revenue block of the SSEYCG and therefore are notional. Local authorities have the freedom to spend the available funding flexibly within that block to best meet local objectives and priorities.

[6] Funding which came directly from the Department. Other funding for the Children's Social Care Workforce came indirectly via CWDC.

## Children: Missing Persons

**Vernon Coaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* police forces on arrangements for safeguarding children and young people who run away or otherwise go missing from home or care. [45221]

**Tim Loughton:** The Secretary of State for Education and I have had no recent discussions with local authorities or police forces specifically on missing children and young people. However, the issue is extremely important to this Department, not least because we know that children who go missing or run away regularly are at risk of harm, including sexual exploitation. We are fully committed to working with the Home Office and other Government Departments to consider what further action is necessary. In so doing, we are taking account of relevant developments including the Munro Review of Child Protection and the transfer of responsibility for missing children from the National Policing Improvement Agency to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre.

## Child Protection

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of children in each *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* parliamentary constituency in England were on the Child Protection Register in each year since 2006. [44597]

**Tim Loughton:** Information on the rate of children who were the subject of a Child Protection Plan per 10,000 children aged under 18 years for 2006 to 2010 has been placed in the Library. Due to the small numbers involved compared to the overall population, rates per 10,000 children are used rather than percentages.

Rates have not been provided at a parliamentary constituency level due to comparability issues between the CIN census data and the ONS population estimates needed to calculate the rates, which are particularly evident with data at a parliamentary constituency level because of the small numbers involved.

*Children[1] who were the subject of a Child Protection Plan[2] at 31 March each year: Years ending 31 March 2006-10; Coverage: Local authorities in England*

| | Rate per 10,000 children aged under 18 years | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* |
| *North East* | | | | | |
| Darlington | 29 | 22 | 23 | 30 | 36 |
| Durham[3] | 17 | 22 | 21 | 28 | n/a |
| Gateshead | 36 | 37 | 40 | 34 | 36 |
| Hartlepool | 36 | 42 | 27 | 38 | 65 |
| Middlesbrough | 43 | 40 | 66 | 82 | 109 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 43 | 67 | 61 | 60 | 64 |
| North Tyneside | 24 | 29 | 27 | 31 | 42 |
| Northumberland | 25 | 28 | 41 | 41 | 42 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 22 | 19 | 40 | 54 | 56 |
| South Tyneside | 26 | 34 | 44 | 35 | 53 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 24 | 30 | 37 | 49 | 65 |
| Sunderland | 44 | 35 | 34 | 46 | 72 |
| *North West* | | | | | |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 17 | 16 | 11 | 35 | 47 |
| Blackpool | 49 | 36 | 55 | 52 | 65 |
| Bolton | 21 | 24 | 31 | 41 | 59 |
| Bury | 25 | 23 | 34 | 34 | 29 |
| Cheshire[4] | 12 | 10 | 12 | 18 | n/a |
| Cheshire East[5] | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 19 |
| Cheshire West and Chester[5] | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 24 |
| Cumbria | 12 | 16 | 23 | 27 | 30 |
| Halton | 31 | 29 | 24 | 26 | 30 |
| Knowsley | 30 | 42 | 30 | 38 | 48 |
| Lancashire[3] | 20 | 22 | 20 | 26 | n/a |
| Liverpool[3] | 24 | 36 | 40 | 58 | n/a |
| Manchester | 28 | 32 | 55 | 57 | 61 |
| Oldham | 16 | 24 | 31 | 43 | 55 |
| Rochdale | 14 | 21 | 15 | 29 | 39 |
| Salford | 27 | 16 | 29 | 49 | 68 |
| Sefton | 24 | 33 | 41 | 54 | 41 |
| St Helens | 37 | 27 | 23 | 31 | 52 |
| Stockport | 21 | 21 | 23 | 28 | 27 |
| Tameside | 20 | 17 | 22 | 34 | 40 |
| Trafford | 34 | 33 | 42 | 45 | 42 |
| Warrington | 23 | 22 | 24 | 22 | 30 |
| Wigan | 14 | 14 | 17 | 32 | 36 |
| Wirral | 36 | 35 | 17 | 33 | 35 |
| *Yorkshire and the Humber* | | | | | |
| Barnsley | 40 | 28 | 30 | 35 | 31 |
| Bradford | 22 | 16 | 20 | 24 | 32 |
| Calderdale | 19 | 26 | 29 | 35 | 34 |
| Doncaster | 38 | 36 | 50 | 48 | 49 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 20 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 19 |
| Kingston upon Hull, City of | 47 | 28 | 23 | 27 | 43 |
| Kirklees | 22 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 29 |
| Leeds | 20 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 36 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 19 | 22 | 25 | 19 | 27 |
| North Lincolnshire | 24 | 23 | 26 | 25 | 34 |
| North Yorkshire[3] | 25 | 19 | 11 | 19 | n/a |
| Rotherham | 19 | 25 | 41 | 51 | 50 |
| Sheffield | 32 | 38 | 27 | 33 | 41 |
| Wakefield | 20 | 23 | 31 | 44 | 41 |
| York | 13 | 17 | 23 | 28 | 22 |
| *East Midlands* | | | | | |
| Derby | 49 | 57 | 32 | 25 | 41 |
| Derbyshire[3] | 18 | 20 | 23 | 31 | n/a |
| Leicester | 42 | 58 | 51 | 50 | 46 |
| Leicestershire[3] | 12 | 11 | 18 | 19 | n/a |
| Lincolnshire | 26 | 25 | 19 | 15 | 19 |
| Northamptonshire | 12 | 12 | 10 | 15 | 15 |
| Nottingham | 48 | 59 | 77 | 74 | 82 |
| Nottinghamshire | 28 | 30 | 26 | 28 | 39 |
| Rutland | 11 | 16 | [6]— | 13 | 13 |
| *West Midlands* | | | | | |
| Birmingham | 42 | 50 | 41 | 55 | 49 |
| Coventry | 31 | 27 | 27 | 44 | 43 |
| Dudley | 17 | 20 | 20 | 26 | 26 |
| Herefordshire | 17 | 15 | 19 | 29 | 32 |
| Sandwell | 26 | 18 | 28 | 31 | 27 |
| Shropshire | 26 | 27 | 23 | 28 | 43 |
| Solihull | 28 | 17 | 12 | 19 | 33 |
| Staffordshire | 22 | 20 | 22 | 26 | 22 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 22 | 29 | 47 | 36 | 48 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 26 | 34 | 42 | 40 | 47 |
| Walsall | 20 | 27 | 29 | 33 | 46 |
| Warwickshire | 26 | 27 | 30 | 32 | 45 |
| Wolverhampton | 35 | 24 | 22 | 31 | 46 |
| Worcestershire | 16 | 24 | 23 | 28 | 32 |
| *East of England* | | | | | |
| Bedford Borough[5] | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 33 |
| Central Bedfordshire[5] | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 30 |
| Bedfordshire[4] | 15 | 12 | 15 | 22 | n/a |
| Cambridgeshire | 20 | 24 | 29 | 29 | 28 |
| Essex | 17 | 21 | 18 | 22 | 26 |
| Hertfordshire | 17 | 16 | 18 | 24 | 26 |
| Luton | 30 | 26 | 21 | 31 | 41 |
| Norfolk | 25 | 20 | 18 | 19 | 31 |
| Peterborough | 46 | 46 | 22 | 25 | 30 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 29 | 34 | 46 | 44 | 45 |
| Suffolk | 27 | 27 | 31 | 26 | 20 |
| Thurrock | 17 | 20 | 41 | 35 | 53 |

*Children[1] who were the subject of a Child Protection Plan[2] at 31 March each year; Years ending 31 March 2006-10; Coverage: Local authorities in England*

| | Rate per 10,000 children aged under 18 years | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* |
| *London* | | | | | |
| *Inner London* | | | | | |
| Camden | 54 | 50 | 49 | 69 | 64 |
| City of London | 0 | [6]— | [6]— | [6]— | 0 |
| Hackney[3] | 32 | 36 | 43 | 43 | n/a |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 24 | 46 | 49 | 56 | 75 |
| Haringey | 40 | 32 | 48 | 37 | 60 |
| Islington | 39 | 33 | 33 | 41 | 39 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 19 | 21 | 18 | 25 | 29 |
| Lambeth | 39 | 45 | 48 | 39 | 56 |
| Lewisham | 41 | 35 | 31 | 35 | 35 |
| Newham | 64 | 72 | 58 | 45 | 51 |
| Southwark | 44 | 42 | 48 | 58 | 61 |
| Tower Hamlets | 25 | 39 | 48 | 55 | 58 |
| Wandsworth | 26 | 28 | 37 | 37 | 32 |
| Westminster | 31 | 34 | 26 | 42 | 39 |
| *Outer London* | | | | | |
| Barking and Dagenham | 30 | 34 | 37 | 36 | 41 |
| Barnet | 16 | 17 | 21 | 20 | 26 |
| Bexley | 15 | 12 | 12 | 17 | 17 |
| Brent[3] | 23 | 22 | 30 | 30 | n/a |
| Bromley | 23 | 21 | 21 | 25 | 37 |
| Croydon | 27 | 30 | 32 | 34 | 43 |
| Ealing | 37 | 50 | 57 | 50 | 56 |
| Enfield | 27 | 23 | 19 | 30 | 26 |
| Greenwich | 31 | 34 | 36 | 52 | 52 |
| Harrow | 25 | 28 | 23 | 33 | 37 |
| Havering[3] | 27 | 15 | 14 | 19 | n/a |
| Hillingdon | 14 | 22 | 26 | 30 | 39 |
| Hounslow | 34 | 37 | 29 | 37 | 38 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 13 | 15 | 19 | 24 | 32 |
| Merton | 22 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 30 |
| Redbridge[3] | 17 | 19 | 22 | 23 | n/a |
| Richmond upon Thames | 13 | 13 | 10 | 9 | 11 |
| Sutton | 16 | 20 | 25 | 35 | 48 |
| Waltham Forest | 33 | 20 | 18 | 25 | 31 |
| *South East* | | | | | |
| Bracknell Forest | 13 | 16 | 20 | 16 | 26 |
| Brighton and Hove | 27 | 32 | 40 | 62 | 78 |
| Buckinghamshire | 14 | 19 | 21 | 24 | 25 |
| East Sussex[3] | 27 | 36 | 36 | 46 | n/a |
| Hampshire | 16 | 16 | 17 | 23 | 23 |
| Isle of Wight | 33 | 23 | 26 | 42 | 29 |
| Kent[3] | 23 | 28 | 31 | 32 | n/a |
| Medway | 31 | 30 | 30 | 29 | 41 |
| Milton Keynes | 7 | 4 | 7 | 12 | 11 |
| Oxfordshire | 20 | 16 | 16 | 18 | 19 |
| Portsmouth | 41 | 26 | 44 | 48 | 45 |
| Reading | 31 | 42 | 35 | 35 | 52 |
| Slough | 33 | 20 | 20 | 47 | 38 |
| Southampton | 26 | 27 | 20 | 33 | 41 |
| Surrey | 11 | 18 | 19 | 22 | 21 |
| West Berkshire | 9 | 11 | 15 | 16 | 18 |
| West Sussex | 21 | 20 | 23 | 25 | 30 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 13 | 22 | 22 | 23 | 21 |
| Wokingham | 13 | 11 | 13 | 17 | 15 |
| *South West* | | | | | |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 17 | 20 | 18 | 22 | 21 |
| Bournemouth | 14 | 19 | 33 | 33 | 51 |
| Bristol. City of | 36 | 40 | 34 | 43 | 37 |
| Cornwall | 34 | 33 | 27 | 33 | 34 |
| Devon | 16 | 19 | 21 | 21 | 29 |
| Dorset | 14 | 19 | 21 | 29 | 43 |
| Gloucestershire[3] | 12 | 17 | 17 | 21 | n/a |
| Isles of Scilly | [6]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| North Somerset | 18 | 20 | 23 | 28 | 22 |
| Plymouth[3] | 27 | 38 | 38 | 38 | n/a |
| Poole | 27 | 23 | 27 | 28 | 47 |
| Somerset | 17 | 18 | 22 | 21 | 25 |
| South Gloucestershire | 18 | 14 | 15 | 25 | 26 |
| Swindon | 13 | 21 | 22 | 24 | 27 |
| Torbay | 19 | 23 | 28 | 38 | 58 |
| Wiltshire | 14 | 13 | 10 | 11 | 14 |

n/a = No data available

[1] Data include unborn children.

[2] If a child is the subject of more than one child protection plan during the year, each will be counted

[3] These LAs provided aggregate data but did not provide data for the number of children who were subject to a child protection plan at 31 March 2010.

[4] Data only available until 2009 due to local authority reorganisation.

[5] The local authorities were formed as part of Local Government reorganisation and data were not available prior to 2010.

[6] Figures have been suppressed to protect confidentiality.

*Sources:*
2006 to 2009—CPR3 Survey
2010—CIN Census
Mid-2009 ONS population estimates

## Children: Separation

**Andrew Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has considered plans to give the non-resident parent a right of access to children in separation cases. [47298]

**Tim Loughton:** The promotion of further contact rights for non-resident parents is being considered as part of the Family Justice Review. The Review Panel is due to issue its interim report at the end of March 2011, with the final report due in the autumn this year.

## Connexions

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effect of changes in the level of local authority funding to Connexions services for 2011-12 on the integration of Connexions and Next Steps services into the All-Age Careers service. [47369]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 16 March 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Education wrote to local authorities on 13 December 2010 to announce allocations under the

Early Intervention Grant (EIG), making clear that the EIG in 2011-12 will support local authorities' responsibilities in respect of careers guidance for young people.

It is for local authorities to determine how such services for young people should be delivered, taking into account locally identified priorities.

### Departmental Billing

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in January and February 2011. [45085]

**Tim Loughton:** The proportion of valid invoices paid on behalf of the Department for Education within five and 10 days of receipt respectively was:

| | | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| | *Within five days* | *Within 10 days* |
| January 2011 | 74.1 | 92.5 |
| February 2011 | 78.4 | 93.7 |

### Departmental Land

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to reduce the size of his Department's estate; and if he will make a statement. [46221]

**Tim Loughton:** The Department for Education plans to reduce significantly the size and cost of its estate over the forthcoming spending review period, as part of the drive to reduce costs. This will include a number of key measures, such as making more efficient use of the buildings we retain, the expansion of our existing Flexible Working Policy and enabling surplus space to be disposed of or used by other Government Departments.

In accordance with Cabinet Office guidelines and Property Controls, the Department will also take opportunities to not renew any commercial lease at expiry and to operate break options wherever possible.

The Government announced in spending review 2010 that as a first step to introducing a more co-ordinated approach to property management in the central civil office estate it would set up, through the Government Property Unit, Property Vehicles for the Central London and Bristol office estate from 2011/12.

Property Vehicles will be responsible for managing a more co-ordinated Government-wide approach to property. They will manage the estate strategically, achieving more efficient use of the property assets, as well as work with Departments to reduce their estates and maximise the commercial potential of their property portfolios.

Furthermore the Government announced this month a new system of National Property Controls across the central civil estate. These controls require Departments to adopt a common, disciplined commercial approach to the use of the estate. These build on the success of the Lease Moratorium introduced in May 2010, which to-date has reduced property costs by around £50 million.

DFE is co-operating fully with both these GPU led initiatives in order to drive down the size of the Department's estate.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many members of staff were employed in the *(a)* Ministerial and *(b)* general correspondence units of his Department in each of the last two years. [24017]

**Tim Loughton:** In 2009 and 2010, the Department employed 14.7 full-time equivalent staff to handle ministerial correspondence. The Department's public communications unit employed 117.5 full-time equivalent staff in 2009 and 112.9 full-time equivalent staff in 2010.

### Departmental Procurement

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education which procurement projects engaged upon by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public body and Executive agency for which he is responsible had a designated senior responsible owner in the latest period for which figures are available; and on what date each officer was appointed in each such case. [45550]

**Tim Loughton:** Based on information held centrally on procurement projects during the financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11, the Department was engaged on thirty nine procurement projects, all of which had a senior responsible owner appointed. Non-departmental public bodies and executive agencies were involved with 10 procurement projects between 2009 and 2011 which the Department is aware of and all had a senior responsible owner appointed. To gather additional information on procurement projects from non-departmental public bodies and executive agencies and to identify the dates when senior responsible owners were appointed would take costs above the cost threshold for parliamentary questions.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has spent on newspapers and magazines since May 2010. [36041]

**Tim Loughton:** For the period 12 May 2010 to 31 December 2010 the Department has spent £2,848 on newspapers and magazines.

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much Barnett consequential funding his Department has provided to each devolved Administration in *(a)* 2010-11 to date and *(b)* in each of the last three years; and with which programmes such funding was associated. [39399]

**Tim Loughton:** In the 2010 spending review changes in the DEL budgets of the devolved Administrations were determined by the Barnett formula in the normal way. The settlements for the years 2011-12 to 2014-15 were published in table 2.22 of the 2010 spending review document (Cm 7942).

Barnett consequentials relating to each of the devolved Administrations for the years 2008-09 to 2010-11 are published as part of the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses Supplementary Material on the Treasury's website under the heading House of Lords Select Committee on the Barnett formula:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub_pesa10.htm

Updated tables taking account of adjustments since the publication of the 2010 edition of PESA will be published alongside the next edition of PESA later this year.

Information on the block grants paid by the territorial offices to the devolved Administrations is published alongside the Main and Supplementary Estimates.

### Departmental Rail Travel

**Mr Godsiff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of civil servants in his Department are entitled to travel first class by rail within the UK. [47074]

**Tim Loughton:** At present, 1,253 (49%) of staff in my Department at the senior executive officer (SEO) grade and above have a contractual entitlement to first class rail travel. Despite this entitlement, we have considerably reduced the use of first class travel, as part of our wider drive to reduce spending and ensure more value for money. This financial year, we have reduced the level of first class travel from 33% in April 2010 to 2% in February 2011.

### Regulation

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what regulations his Department repealed between 27 January and 28 February 2011. [45979]

**Tim Loughton:** In the period 27 January to 28 February, two sets of regulations were revoked: the School Finance (England) Regulations 2006 and the School Finance (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2007. These were largely replaced by the revoking instrument, the School Finance (England) Regulations 2011.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what regulations his Department introduced between 9 and 28 February 2011. [47149]

**Tim Loughton:** In the period 9 to 28 February 2011 ("the relevant period"), the Department for Education made four statutory instruments. In addition, two statutory instruments made before the relevant period came into force during the relevant period.

The following statutory instruments were made during the relevant period but will come into force after 28 February 2011:

| *Title* | *Made* | *Laid* | *In force* |
|---|---|---|---|
| The School Finance (England) Regulations 2011 | 11 February 2011 | 18 February 2011 | 15 March 2011 |
| The Care Standards Act 2000 (Enforcement of Care Standards) (Notification) (England) Regulations 2011 | 26 February 2011 | 4 March 2011 | 1 April 2011 |
| Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills (Fees and Frequency of Inspections) (Children's Homes etc) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 | 26 February 2011 | 4 March 2011 | 1 April 2011 |
| The Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 (Consequential Modifications) Order 2011 | 28 February 2011 | n/a | 1 March 2011 |

The following statutory instruments were made before 9 February 2011 but came into force during the relevant period:

| *Title* | *Made* | *Laid* | *In force* |
|---|---|---|---|
| The Education (School Day and School Year) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 | 26 January 2011 | 2 February 2011 | 25 February 2011 |
| The School Teachers' Pay and Conditions (Amendment) Order 2011 | 31 January 2011 | 4 February 2011 | 25 February 2011 |

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Mr Blunkett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what criteria his Department uses to assess the merits of applications for contracts to provide advice line services; and if he will make a statement. [45495]

**Tim Loughton:** The Department uses criteria specific to the requirements of each individual helpline, this includes asking contractors to demonstrate:

*A. How they will deliver the requirements outlined:*

Contact handling requirements

System requirements

Provision of a pool of skilled multi-channel advisers

Recruitment, training and quality management

Data security and transfer protocols

Resourcing and efficiency

Reporting and data capture

Account management and administration

Technical and back-end staff

Fulfilment

*B. Their values and approach:*

Experience of delivering TUPE

Flexibility

Delivering customer service excellence—quality assurance and continuous improvement

Culture and approach to integration, collaboration and a sense of responsibility to deliver

Proactivity/initiative and commitment to the improvement of the service delivery and customer service experience

Experience of working on services which involve liaising with local services and regional variation in service options

*C. and include:*

Two examples/case studies of similar central Government/public sector projects that have been engaged upon in the last five years, demonstrating how all criteria in section 2 A and B above, have been met

Two references from existing central Government/public sector clients where a similar service has been undertaken

An organisational structure

List of quality standards/accreditations achieved in recent years, including a listing of any industry/trade bodies of which you are a member

A full project plan showing timings for set up and 'go live'

Written agreement to abide by COI's standard framework agreement/terms and conditions

Any other information that they may consider appropriate to support their contract bid.

### Education Maintenance Allowance

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will estimate the effect on the number of students currently participating in the first year of study and receiving education maintenance allowance who will participate in the second year of the study in *(a)* Hartlepool constituency, *(b)* North East of England and *(c)* England following the ending of education maintenance allowance. [47513]

**Mr Gibb:** The information requested is not available centrally as we do not hold data which link EMA recipients to the courses they take or the duration of their courses.

### Education: Ofsted

**Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to ensure that provision for people aged 16 to 19 in *(a)* school six forms, *(b)* sixth form colleges and *(c)* further education colleges is inspected and graded by Ofsted using the same criteria in accordance with the proposal in paragraph 6.9 of the Education White Paper, The Importance of Teaching; and if he will make a statement. [44553]

**Mr Gibb:** School sixth forms are inspected as part of the inspection of the whole school and graded using the criteria in the Framework for the Inspection of Maintained Schools. Sixth form colleges and further education colleges are inspected and graded using the criteria in the Common Inspection Framework. Ofsted seeks as much alignment as is appropriate between the frameworks. There are, however, different statutory requirements for the inspection of the different types of provision and, consequently, it is inevitable that there are differences between the two frameworks. We believe it is right to continue to inspect the sixth form as an integral part of the rest of the school.

Paragraph 6.9 of the White Paper envisages common performance measures for 16-19 education and training and we are working towards this aim.

### Education: Public Expenditure

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of public expenditure on education as a proportion of *(a)* GDP and *(b)* total public expenditure in the latest period for which figures are available. [44267]

**Tim Loughton:** The latest figures available are published in the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) 2010 by Her Majesty's Treasury.

*(a)* Estimated public expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP in 2009-10 is 6.3%.

*(b)* Estimated public expenditure on education as a percentage of total public expenditure is 13.1%.

### Educational Psychology

**Nic Dakin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many educational psychology posts there were in March 2010; and what estimate he has made of the level of such posts in March 2011. [45678]

**Sarah Teather** *[holding answer 21 March 2011]:* The latest available figures, from the Annual Survey of Teachers in Service and Teacher Vacancies, show that there were 2,156 full time equivalent educational psychologists in service in England in January 2009.

Information on educational psychology posts is not held centrally. Educational psychology services are demand led and it is the responsibility of local authorities to assess the need and to determine the capacity to meet that need.

The Department announced on 9 March 2011 a review of the training arrangements for educational psychologists. We are taking advantage of the opportunity presented by the consultation on the Green Paper "Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability" to consider options for placing the training of educational psychologists on a more secure footing.

Full details of the scope of the review and how to respond to the Green Paper consultation can be found on the Department for Education's website. Those wishing to participate in the review or request further information may contact:

edpsvch.review@education.gsi.gov.uk

### Free School Meals

**Andrew Stephenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to *(a)* identify and *(b)* support children who qualify for free school meals. [25905]

**Mr Gibb:** The Department for Education has worked closely with other Government Departments to develop a free school meals eligibility checking system, known as "the ECS". This has increased identification and support for free school meals because it enables local authorities to check data simultaneously from the Department for Work and Pensions, Home Office and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs in order to ascertain whether a parent qualifies for free school meals and removes the need for paper proof of benefit. An increasing number of local authorities allow parents to apply online for free school meals and receive immediate notification of their eligibility.

Take up of school lunch is rising. Every day three million children are eating a healthy school lunch which meets the school food regulations. The latest school lunch take-up survey shows that for the second year running, take up of school lunches has increased; it is now 41.1% in primary from 39.3% in 2009, and 35.8% in secondary schools from 35.0% in 2009.

From 2011-12, the Government will be introducing a pupil premium worth £2.5 billion by 2014-15, to support the attainment of disadvantaged pupils. The pupil premium will provide schools with an additional £430 for each child known to be eligible for free school meals, in order to help them boost their attainment. Schools are already promoting and supporting parents in applying for free school meals. We therefore expect that the pupil premium, together with the ease with which parents can now apply, will increase take-up further.

**Mr Ward:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what reasons students from households in receipt of working tax credit are not eligible for free school meals. [46973]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 15 March 2011]:* Free school meals are intended to provide additional help to children in non-working families as they are not able to claim the additional working tax credit that is available to low income working families with adults working 16 or more hours a week.

The current eligibility criteria are designed to ensure that those most in need receive the additional help that free school meals provide

The Welfare Reform Bill will introduce a universal credit, beginning in 2013, to replace current benefits with a single payment, and will therefore remove the current thresholds. It is intended to be a simpler approach and a fairer way of determining entitlement, but it will mean that the current criteria for identifying entitlement to free school meals no longer exist. An alternative way of identifying entitlement is being developed.

### Free Schools: Lancashire

**Mr Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what applications he has received from groups in Lancashire to establish a new free school. [43030]

**Mr Gibb:** As at 16 March 2011, we have received five proposals from groups and individuals in Lancashire to establish a free school.

### Free Schools: Norwich

**Simon Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to announce his decision on the free school application from the OPEN Youth Trust in Norwich; and if he will make a statement. [31974]

**Mr Gibb:** After assessing The OPEN Youth Trust's Free School proposal in the same way as all other Free School proposals and in light of the decision to progress the Norfolk university technical college to feasibility stage, we have decided not to take forward the OPEN Youth Trust's proposal. The proposer was informed of this decision on 10 January 2011.

### Further Education: Finance

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future funding of post-16 education; what assessment he has made of the average change in budgets of *(a)* 13-18 high schools and *(b)* 11-18 secondary schools in 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [46897]

**Mr Gibb:** We are currently undertaking a review of the 16-19 funding formula to investigate how the formula might in future better support the coalition Government's aims of transparency and fairness, including alignment with the pre-16 funding and Pupil Premium. The review will also take account of the recommendations from Professor Wolf's review of vocational qualifications.

We have not yet completed school sixth form allocations-for 2011/12 but will do so before the end of this financial year. An overall assessment of the average change in budgets for schools in 2011/12 has not been possible because we do not yet have the information to do this. Local authorities are responsible for determining pre-16 school funding and we do not receive returns for 2011/12 budgets until 31 March 2011 at the earliest.

For pre-16 funding, the overall funding in 2011-12 is at flat cash per pupil over 2010-11, and the pupil premium is in addition to that. For post-16 funding, we are committed in 2011-12 to a reduction in the per-pupil funding of no more than 3%.

### GCSE

**Mr Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of children taking GCSEs achieved *(a)* an A*-C grade in both English and mathematics, *(b)* five or more A*-C GCSE grades including English and mathematics in (i) 2000-01, (ii) 2007-08 and (iii) 2008-09. [44775]

**Mr Gibb:** In the following table, figures for 2001 are based on pupils aged 15; figures for 2008 and 2009 are based on pupils reaching the end of Key Stage 4.

*Percentage*

| | *Proportion of pupils taking GCSEs who achieved an A*-C grade in both English and mathematics* | *Proportion of pupils taking GCSEs who achieved five or more A*-C grades including English and mathematics* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000/01 | 41.9 | 40.7 |
| 2007/08 | 48.2 | 47.6 |
| 2008/09 | 50.2 | 49.8 |

*Source:*
School and College Performance Tables

**Damian Hinds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2011, *Official Report,* columns 265-66W, on GCSEs, what the average cumulative number of GCSE entries was per student reaching school year 11 amongst students entered for at least one GCSE up to and including year 11 in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* 2009-10. [45525]

**Mr Gibb:** The average number of GCSE entries among pupils entered for at least one full GCSE aged 15 at the start of the academic year 1996/97 was 8.51.

The average number of GCSE entries among pupils entered for at least one full GCSE at the end of key stage 4 in 2010 was 7.79.

The averages include attempts and achievement in previous academic years.

Short courses have been counted as half a GCSE entry and double courses as two entries. Also, in 2010, accredited iGCSEs have been included.

Prior to 2005, statistics were based on pupils aged 15. In 2005, statistics based on pupils reaching the end of key stage 4 were introduced, which aimed to take better account of the attainment of pupils learning at different rates. Since 2009, all figures have been based exclusively on pupils reaching the end of key stage 4.

*Source:*

School and College Performance Tables.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when his Department plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of 19 January and 21 February 2011 on Miss Susan McCaffery. [47996]

**Tim Loughton** *[holding answer 21 March 2011]:* The Minister of State, Department for Education, my hon. Friend the Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton (Mr Gibb), replied on 18 March.

### International Baccalaureate: Music

**Dr Wollaston:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what consideration he has given to the merits of including music in the English Baccalaureate. [47573]

**Mr Gibb:** We are concerned that the number of pupils, especially those in disadvantaged areas, who receive a broad education in core academic subjects is far too small. We want to encourage more pupils to take these core subjects and to bring about greater fairness of opportunity.

The English Baccalaureate does not include all the subjects worthy of study. We recognise that study in other subjects will be just as valuable to pupils and we will encourage all pupils to study non-English Baccalaureate subjects alongside the English Baccalaureate in order to benefit from a well rounded education. This is why we have kept the number of core subjects small enough to allow wider study. Subjects, such as music, which do not count towards the English Baccalaureate, can and will play a part in a well rounded, rigorous education. Achievement in these subjects, as with all GCSEs, will continue to be recognised in the performance tables as part of the A*-C measure, which will remain the basis for secondary school floor standards.

### Pupil Exclusions

**Charlotte Leslie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of pupils at secondary schools with *(a)* fewer than 800, *(b)* 800 to 1,000 and *(c)* more than 1,000 pupils have been permanently excluded in each year since 2000. [17920]

**Mr Gibb:** The requested information for 2005/06 and 2008/09 is shown in the table.

Data on permanent exclusions were collected via the school census from 2005/06. Prior to that year, permanent exclusions were collected via the pupil level annual school census. For consistency, data on permanent exclusions have been provided for the earliest and the most recent year available using school census data. To provide data for further years would incur disproportionate cost.

*State-funded secondary schools[1], [2]: Number and proportion of pupil enrolments[3] with permanent exclusions by size of school[4], 2005/06 and 2008/09, England*

| | *Schools with fewer than 800 pupils[4]* | | *Schools with 800 to 1,000 pupils[4]* | | *Schools with over 1,000 pupils[4]* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number of enrolments with permanent exclusions[5]* | *Percentage of school population with permanent exclusions[6]* | *Number of enrolments with permanent exclusions[5]* | *Percentage of school population with permanent exclusions[6]* | *Number of enrolments with permanent exclusions[5]* | *Percentage of school population with permanent exclusions[6]* |
| 2005/06 | 1,860 | 0.29 | 1,640 | 0.25 | 4,180 | 0.20 |
| 2008/09 | 1,520 | 0.23 | 1,230 | 0.19 | 2,690 | 0.14 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Pupils may be counted more than once if they moved schools during the year, or are registered at more than one school,

[4] Headcount or solely registered pupils taken from the January school census. Schools which were not open at the January census have been excluded from the analysis.

[5] Data are as returned by schools.

[6] The number of pupil enrolments expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of pupils (excluding dually registered) pupils as at the January school census.

*Note:*

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

*Source:*

School census.

### Pupil Exclusions: West Midlands

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many school children were excluded permanently from schools in *(a)* Coventry and *(b)* the West Midlands in 2010. [47881]

**Mr Gibb:** Exclusions data for the 2009/10 academic year are not yet available. A Statistical First Release (SFR), which will include national and local authority level data on permanent exclusions, is due to be published in July.

Information on permanent exclusions for the 2008/09 academic year is provided in the following table.

The information has been published as part of the SFR Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools in England 2008/09, in Table 17, at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000942/index.shtml

*Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools[1, 2] number of permanent exclusions[3] 2008/09 in west midlands Government office region and Coventry local authority (estimates)*

| | *Maintained primary[1]* | | *Maintained secondary[1]* | | *Special[2]* | | *Maintained primary; state-funded secondary and special schools[1, 2, 4]* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number of permanent exclusions* | *Percentage of the school population[5]* | *Number of permanent exclusions* | *Percentage of the school population[5]* | *Number of permanent exclusions* | *Percentage of the school population[5]* | *Number of permanent exclusions[6]* | *Percentage of the school population[5]* |
| West midlands[6] | 120 | 0.03 | 600 | 0.17 | 10 | 0.06 | 770 | 0.09 |
| Coventry | [7]— | [7]— | 15 | 0.07 | 0 | 0.00 | 20 | 0.05 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[3] Figures are as confirmed by local authorities as part of the data checking exercise.

[4] Includes city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).

[5] The number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of pupils (excluding dually registered pupils) in January 2009.

[6] Regional totals and the local authority total have been rounded to the nearest 10.

[7] Less than five, or a percentage based on less than five.

*Source:*
School Census

## Pupils: Bullying

**Mrs Glindon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to issue guidance to *(a)* teachers, *(b)* schools and *(c)* local authorities on online and cyber bullying. [27699]

**Tim Loughton** *[holding answer 30 November 2010]:* In our Schools White Paper, The Importance of Teaching, we announced measures to ensure head teachers take a strong stand against all forms of bullying, including cyberbullying. These measures include radically reducing the existing 481 pages of bullying guidance for schools to make it sharper. We will also encourage the promotion and sharing of good practice, so that what works in one school or area is learnt by others. This will help ensure that excellent ways of tackling bullying and cyberbullying are replicated everywhere.

We continue to work with the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS), which is co-chaired by Ministers: the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, my hon Friend the Member for Old Bexley and Sidcup (James Brokenshire) and I. Several of its members, for example Childnet and BeatBullying, work directly with children, young people and families, as well as in schools, to promote e-safety and tackle cyberbullying. Industry is also working with UKCCIS to self-regulate and promote good practice to make cyberbullying easier to report, and enable prompt removal of harmful content, while making it harder for users to engage in such activity.

## Pupils: Disadvantaged

**Mr Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the monetary value of the pupil premium will be per qualifying pupil in each year to 2014-15. [28829]

**Mr Gibb:** The level of the pupil premium in 2011-12 will be £430 per pupil. The total amount allocated for the pupil premium is £625 million for 2011-12, rising to £2.5 billion in 2014-15. We have not yet determined how much it will be in the interim years and will review which pupils will be eligible in the future.

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effects of reductions in enrichment funding for 16-19 providers on students in deprived communities. [42422]

**Mr Gibb:** The YPLA's 16-19 funding statement set out the Government's key priority to rebalance funding towards disadvantaged students and those needing additional support. That is why we are allocating £150 million of the savings made from removing the requirement to deliver specific activities through enrichment funding in order to increase the targeted funding in the national funding formula which addresses deprivation. Funding for young people who live in the most disadvantaged areas of England and those who are disadvantaged by other circumstances will increase by over a third in 2011/12 to a total of some £770 million. This, along with the additional funding we have also made available to support foundation learning, will ensure that funding is targeted where it is most needed. We have committed to reviewing the funding formula to determine how a 'young person's premium' might operate in future in order to increase attainment by the most disadvantaged students.

We will not be directing schools and colleges to use the increases in funding for disadvantaged young people in any particular way, because they know best the needs of their students. However, we expect at least some of it will be used to support the sort of enrichment activity that will benefit the hardest to reach young people.

**Mr Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of pupils in Peterborough constituency who will qualify for the pupil premium. [46809]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 17 March 2011]:* The pupil premium for 2011-12 will be allocated to local authorities and schools with pupils that are known to be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) as recorded on the January 2011 School Census, Pupil Referral Unit Census and Alternative Provision Census. Each pupil known to be eligible for free school meals will attract £430 of funding which will go to the school or academy via the local authority or YPLA if the pupil is in a mainstream setting or will be managed by the responsible local authority if the pupil is in a non-mainstream setting.

Local authorities will also attract the Looked After Child Pupil Premium for 2011-12 which will be allocated to local authorities for pupils who at some point in the year to 31 March 2010 were looked after continuously for at least 6 months, and who were aged 4 to 15 on 31 August 2009 as recorded on the April 2010 Local Authority return. Each pupil will attract £430 of funding which will go to the responsible local authority that will pass it to maintained schools for eligible pupils.

The January 2010 School Census allows an estimate of the number of pupils known to be eligible for FSM to be made. In the Peterborough constituency in January 2010 there were 3,352 pupils known to be eligible, which would give rise to a pupil premium of £1,441,360. In addition to this there were 37 pupils known to be eligible for the Service child premium, paid at a lower rate of £200 per pupil, which would give rise to a further £7,400. However, these are estimates only and are not necessarily indicative of how the pupil premium will be distributed. It is not possible to determine the number of parliamentary constituency pupils recorded on the Alternative Provision census or recorded as Looked After as they are both local authority, rather than establishment level, returns.

### Pupils: Per Capita Costs

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the financial effect on the per pupil funding of each local authority of a school becoming an academy school. [22601]

**Mr Gibb:** Adjustments are made to funding for local authorities for funding that would otherwise have been available to a school, including its share of central services.

### Religion: Education

**Dr Huppert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on *(a)* ensuring that free schools are not permitted to teach creationism outside the religious education curriculum and *(b)* requiring evolution to be taught as a science in such schools. [39598]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 10 February 2011]:* Academies and free schools will benefit from having freedom over the curriculum they deliver. However, we have been clear that creationism should not form part of any science curriculum or be taught as a scientific alternative to accepted scientific theories. We expect to see evolution and its foundation topics fully included in any science curriculum. Under the Government's planned reforms to school inspection, there will be stronger focus on teaching. Teachers will be expected to demonstrate that their subject knowledge is secure. If creationism is being taught as a scientific fact in science or any other areas of the curriculum outside denominational RE and collective worship, this would be noted in the Ofsted report.

### Schools: Biometrics

**Nicola Blackwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education which information his Department holds on the number of *(a)* primary schools, *(b)* secondary schools and *(c)* sixth form colleges which are using biometric systems; and if he will make a statement. [46750]

**Mr Gibb:** We do not require schools or sixth form colleges to provide this information.

However, we estimate based on reports of freedom of information requests carried out by the media and interest groups that approximately 30% of secondary schools and five percent of primary schools use such systems. We have no similar estimate for how many sixth form colleges use biometric systems.

Legislation in the Protection of Freedoms Bill will ensure that no children's biometric data are taken, in schools or colleges, without parental permission. The Protection of Freedoms Bill will also give children the right to refuse to use biometric systems and ensure that alternatives are provided for children who opt out or whose parents opt out of using biometric technology. The Government believe that with these safeguards in place schools and sixth form colleges should be left to decide if biometric technology is appropriate for them to use.

### Schools: Bradford

**Mr Ward:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate his Department has made of the additional school places needed to meet population growth in the Bradford district by 2020. [47169]

**Mr Gibb:** It is the responsibility of each local authority to manage the supply and demand for primary and secondary school places in their area and secure a place for every child of statutory school age who wants one. The Department will continue to provide capital funding and work with local authorities to ensure there are sufficient school places.

The Department does collect information from each local authority on school capacity in maintained schools through an annual survey, which includes local authorities' own pupil forecasts (five years for primary places and seven years for secondary places). The most recent survey data relate to the position at May 2010 and are available on the Department for Education's website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/

### Schools: Discretionary Learner Support Fund

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education on what date he plans to inform schools and further education colleges in Coventry of their allocation of discretionary learner support for 2011-12. [47378]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 21 March 2011]:* We will be announcing details of the new arrangements for financial support for young people aged 16-19 shortly.

### Schools: Drugs

**John Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when the revised guidance on managing medicines in schools will be published; and what steps he plans to take to publicise the guidance to all relevant school staff. [45454]

**Sarah Teather:** This Department, together with the Department of Health, is currently reviewing the Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings guidance, published in March 2005. The aim of the review is to produce some clear and concise guidance that clarifies roles and expectations, and signposts good practice. We plan to publish the revised guidance in time for the start of the next academic year in September.

The revised guidance will be published on the Department's website at:

www.education.gov.uk/

We will look for opportunities to publicise it as widely as possible.

### Schools: Finance

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding he *(a)* has allocated and *(b)* plans to allocate to the (i) acquisition, (ii) equipment and (iii) running costs of the (A) West London free school and (b) Ark Conway primary school. [44790]

**Mr Gibb:** The Secretary of State for Education has approved the funding agreement for the West London free school, but has not yet approved a funding agreement for Ark Conway primary school.

As acquisitions for both sites are ongoing, we are unable to release cost details at this stage. Equipment and running costs for both free school projects have yet to be finalised.

Full details of costs for both free school projects will be made available shortly after the schools open, and when costs will be fully finalised.

### Schools: Rural Areas

**Dr Poulter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will introduce an education funding formula with the purpose of providing specific support to schools in rural areas. [45885]

**Mr Gibb:** As we said in the White Paper "The Importance of Teaching", our long-term aspiration is to move to a national funding formula for schools to ensure that resources going to schools are transparent, logical and equitable. In order to ensure any move to a new national funding formula is fair, transparent and managed carefully, we will invite views on: the merits of moving to such a formula, the right time to begin the transition to a formula, the transitional arrangements necessary to ensure that schools and local authorities do not suffer undue turbulence, and the factors to take into account in order to assess the needs of pupils for funding purposes. The particular needs of rural areas will be looked at as part of the review. We will also invite views on how to ensure that the transparency of the Pupil Premium as additional resources for schools is maintained as the funding system is reformed. We will publish a consultation in the spring of 2011, following discussion with partners including local authorities, school leaders and teachers' associations.

### Schools: Sports

**Dr Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding from the public purse was spent on sport in schools from each funding source in each year since 2003. [26792]

**Tim Loughton:** A total of £2.4 billion of Exchequer and lottery funding has been allocated to deliver the previous Government's PE and sport strategy since 2003. This includes lottery funding, and joint funding from consecutive spending review settlements for the Departments for Education and for Culture, Media and Sport, as follows:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 to 2007-08 from lottery funds | 686 |
| 2003-04 to 2005-06 | 419 |
| 2006-07 to 2007-08 | 519 |
| 2008-09 to 2010-11 | 783 |

It is not possible to calculate the additional funding schools will have allocated to school sport from within their own budgets over this period.

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the oral answer from the Prime Minister of 24 November 2010, *Official Report,* columns 258-59, how much he plans to spend on sports in schools in each of the next three years following the ending of the School Sport Partnerships scheme; and if he will make a statement. [28051]

**Tim Loughton:** The Secretary of State for Education has said he expects levels of provision of sport in schools at least to remain the same. To help make this possible, school sport partnerships will receive funding to allow them to continue to function up until the end of the 2011 summer term. This funding will be used to fund the provision of physical education and sport; to embed existing good practice throughout the system; and to introduce sporting competitions for more pupils as part of the coalition Government's School games.

In addition, we will make available £65 million of new funding for schools to enable them to provide more opportunities for competitive sport. This funding will pay for one day a week of a secondary PE teacher's time to be spent out of the classroom, encouraging greater take-up of competitive sport in primary schools and securing a fixture network for schools to increase the amount of intra-and inter-school competition. We will be writing to schools with further details shortly.

The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport recently announced the creation of a network of school games organisers. These games organisers will work with released PE teachers to ensure every primary school pupil has access to high quality competitive sport.

This approach will mean that funding and support are there so that schools can continue to work in partnerships to deliver sport if they wish to, in order to increase competitive sport.

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has undertaken an assessment of the effects on the level of participation in sport among young people of the withdrawal of funding for School Sport Partnerships. [30923]

**Tim Loughton:** We do not expect any adverse effect on the level of participation in sport resulting from our new approach to funding school sports.

The new direction of travel, and initial funding, for the coalition Government's new approach on school sports was announced by the Secretary of State in December 2010. The proposals will encourage more pupils to play competitive sports and give schools and teachers more control over what is taught and how they teach.

Furthermore, physical education (PE) is a compulsory subject of the National Curriculum, and all pupils must take part in sport activities that are part of their school's teaching of PE unless they are disapplied. In announcing the review of the National Curriculum in January 2011, we have made clear that we will retain the legal requirement for all maintained schools to continue to provide PE for all pupils of compulsory school age. The first phase of the review will refocus the programme of study for PE to encourage competitive sport.

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding his Department allocated to school sport partnerships in Brighton and Hove in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [33163]

**Tim Loughton:** All maintained schools in the City of Brighton and Hove belong to the Dorothy Stringer School Sport Partnership. The funding allocated to this partnership in 2007, 2008 and 2009 was as follows: £349,771 in 2007, £388,308 in 2008, and £388,287 in 2009.

**Simon Danczuk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the long-term effects of his Department's changes to school sports funding on public health. [33268]

**Tim Loughton:** The Government are putting in place, and funding, a simpler and more sustainable approach to physical education and sport in schools. By setting clear expectations for all pupils in the National Curriculum, by giving schools the freedom and funding to deliver as they see best, and by encouraging pupils to play more sport through the creation of a new School Games, the Government expect to contribute to the long-term good health of all pupils.

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of school students in *(a)* Wallasey constituency and *(b)* Wirral borough council participate in five hours or more of school sports each week. [33872]

**Tim Loughton:** The Department does not collect information about student participation in five hours or more of school sport per week, including by constituency or local authority.

**Simon Danczuk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will estimate the number of students in Rochdale school participating in school sports in each of *(a)* the last two financial years and *(b)* next two financial years. [35606]

**Tim Loughton:** Physical education (PE) is a compulsory subject of the national curriculum, and all pupils must take part in sport activities that are part of their school's teaching of PE unless they are disapplied. In announcing the review of the national curriculum in January 2011, we have made clear that we will retain the requirement for all maintained schools to continue to provide PE for all pupils of compulsory school age.

The number of students on the roll of maintained primary and secondary schools in Rochdale local authority area in 2009 and 2010, and the number of students estimated to attend in 2011 and 2012, are set out in the table.

| | *Student numbers* |
|---|---|
| 2009 | 31,790 |
| 2010 | 31,410 |
| 2011 | 30,360 |
| 2012 | 30,500 |

[1] Source: school census and school capacity survey.
[2] School census data are collected in January every year.
[3] Student numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects school sport partnerships in Warrington to receive formal notification of their funding for 2010-11. [37178]

**Tim Loughton:** The Department for Education notified all School Sport Partnerships of their final funding for 2010-11 on 20 January 2011. This covered final payments to School Sport Partnerships up to the end of the summer term 2011. The Department had previously informed all School Sport Partnerships, on 21 December 2010, of the basis for calculating the grant for 2010-11.

### Sixth-form Education: Repairs and Maintenance

**Damian Hinds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the proportion of sixth form colleges that have carried out zero-rated capital works which have made use of the statutory concessions permitting up to five per cent. business use in the last 10 years. [46929]

**Mr Gibb:** Sixth form colleges are independent organisations responsible for the management of their own estates and the delivery of their own programmes and services. Neither the Department nor the Young People's Learning Agency collects or holds information pertaining to the proportion of sixth form colleges that have made use of the statutory concessions in relation to zero-rated capital works.

### Sixth-form Colleges: Capital Investment

**Damian Hinds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education which sixth-form colleges undertook capital works of a monetary value of more than £1 million in the last 10 years; and which such projects attracted a zero rate of value added tax in respect of *(a)* less than 10 per cent., *(b)* between 11 per cent. and 50 per cent., *(c)* between 51 per cent. and 90 per cent. and *(d)* 91 per cent. or above of the monetary value of the project. [45639]

**Mr Gibb:** Information held by the YPLA has recorded that 73 sixth-form colleges undertook capital works, the costs of which totalled more than £1 million over the last 10 years. The list of the 73 colleges is listed as follows and excludes those institutions that are no longer sixth-form colleges. In addition, some sixth-form colleges will have undertaken capital works that did not require approval and for which the YPLA does not have information.

The YPLA has not been required to report on VAT rates and levels, but does have access to some information on the amount of VAT that has been paid on each project. However, the information is not readily available and can be obtained only at disproportionate costs. Sixth-form colleges themselves would hold the VAT information relevant to works that did not require approval.

*Sixth-form colleges with projects with a cost of more than £1 million during period of April 2001 to March 2011*

*College name:*

Alton College
Aquinas College
Ashton under Lyne Sixth Form College
Barton Peveril College
Bexhill College
Birkenhead Sixth Form College
Blackpool Sixth Form College
Bolton Sixth Form College
Brighton Hove and Sussex Sixth Form College
Cadbury College
Cardinal Newman College
Carmel College
Christ the King Sixth Form College
City of Stoke on Trent Sixth Form College
Coulsdon College
East Norfolk Sixth Form College
Farnborough Sixth Form College
Farnham College
Franklin Sixth Form College
Gateway College
Godalming College
Greenhead College
Hartlepool Sixth Form College
Havant College
Havering Sixth Form College
Hereford Sixth Form College
Hills Road Sixth Form College
Holy Cross College
Huddersfield New College
John Leggott College
John Ruskin College
Joseph Chamberlain College
Josiah Mason Sixth Form College
King George V College
Leyton Sixth Form College
Long Road Sixth Form College
Loreto College
Luton Sixth Form College
New College Pontefract
Newham Sixth Form College
Notre Dame Sixth Form College
Palmers College
Peter Symonds College
Portsmouth College
Priestley College
Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College
Queen Mary's College
Reigate Sixth Form College
Richard Huish College
Sir George Monoux College
Sir John Deane's College
Solihull Sixth Form College
St Brendan's Sixth Form College
St Charles Sixth Form College
St Dominic's Sixth Form College
St Francis Xavier College
St John Rigby College
St Mary's College, Blackburn
Stockton Sixth Form College
Strode's College
Taunton's College
The College of Richard Collyer in Horsham
The Sixth Form College Colchester
The Sixth Form College Farnborough
Thomas Rotherham College
Totton College
Widnes and Runcorn Sixth Form College
Wilberforce College
Winstanley College
Woodhouse College
Wyggeston and Queen Elizabeth I College
Wyke College
Xaverian College

## Special Educational Needs

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what criteria his Department uses to determine which children should be referred to a special needs school; and if he will make a statement. [32243]

**Sarah Teather:** Other than in prescribed circumstances, such as for the purposes of an assessment, only children who have a statement of special educational needs (SEN) can be admitted to a special school. Decisions on whether to place children with statements in special schools are for local authorities, acting in accordance with the Education Act 1996 and taking account of the Department's statutory guidance the SEN Code of Practice (2001) and Inclusive Schooling (2001).

The parents of children with SEN statements can request that their children are admitted to a maintained special school. Where they do so, the local authority must place the child in that school unless it is unsuitable to the child's age, ability, aptitude or SEN or attendance at the school would be incompatible with the efficient education of the other children with whom the child would be educated or the efficient use of resources. Parents can also make representations to the local authority for their child to be educated at an independent or non-maintained special school. The local authority must consider those representations and can arrange for the child to be admitted to such a school if doing so is necessary to meet the child's SEN.

Local authorities can admit children with SEN statements to special schools even where their parents have requested a mainstream education for their child. If the parents have requested that the child is educated in mainstream schooling without requesting a particular school, the local authority can instead place the child in a special school if mainstream education is unsuitable to the child's age, ability, aptitude and SEN or attending a mainstream school would be incompatible with the education of other children and there were no reasonable steps that could be taken to prevent that incompatibility. If the parents request a particular mainstream school then the local authority also has to consider whether placing the child at the school would be incompatible with the efficient use of resources.

On 9 March the Department published a Green Paper, "Support and Aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability", for consultation until 30 June. The document mentions Inclusive Schooling in the context of parental choice of school for their children and asks readers whether they:

> "feel that the statutory guidance on inclusion and school choice, Inclusive Schooling, allows appropriately for parental preferences for either a mainstream or special school".

The Government will consider responses to the questions in the Green Paper carefully.

The Green Paper refers to the Government's White Paper "The Importance of Learning" which sets out plans for a new school system. These plans include an expanded Academy programme which will give special schools, starting with those judged by Ofsted to be outstanding, the opportunity to become Academies and the opportunity for teachers, charities, parent groups and others to open special free schools, in response to parental demand. The Government intend to introduce legislation to ensure that the parents of children with statements, or the Education, Health and Care Plans which will replace them, have equivalent rights to request any state-funded school, whether that is a special school, mainstream school, Academy or free school.

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has plans to require schools to record *(a)* pupils with a disability and *(b)* the type of disability. [37898]

**Sarah Teather:** From 2011 the School Census enabled schools in England to provide information on the disability of children on a voluntary basis. Future collection and publication arrangements for data on disability will be considered in the light of data and collected responses to January 2011 School Census returns which will become available in the spring.

### Students: Attendance

**John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average attendance rate was of students in further education in each year since 2004 in each local authority area. [41243]

**Mr Gibb:** Information on absence is not collected for further education establishments. The Department collects information on pupil absence for pupils aged five to 15 at the start of the school year from maintained primary, maintained secondary, all special schools, city technology colleges and academies.

Information on absence can be found in Statistical First Release 07/2010 'Pupil Absence in Schools in England, Including Pupil Characteristics: 2008/09' at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000918/index.shtml

### Teachers: Pay

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will bring forward proposals for the reimbursement to local authorities in outer London boroughs of the full cost of payment of inner London salary scales to teachers. [47647]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 18 March 2011]:* In the White Paper 'The Importance of Teaching' we said that we will consult on developing and introducing a clear, transparent and fairer national funding formula based on the needs of pupils, to work alongside the pupil premium. We are aware of the concerns of six London boroughs which are treated as inner London in terms of teachers' pay but outer London for the Area Cost Adjustment in the calculation of their funding. The whole question of the Area Cost Adjustment is being considered as part of the proposals for a national funding formula and will be included in the consultation which will be issued shortly.

### Teachers: Redundancy

**Mr Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of teachers who will be made redundant in the academic year 2010-11. [47274]

**Mr Gibb:** No such assessment has been made centrally. The funding settlement for 2010-11 protects funding per pupil for schools in cash terms, and provides additional funding for the pupil premium on top of that.

It is for schools and employers to make their own decisions in respect of planning any necessary redundancies, although we would expect schools to look to make efficiency gains in areas such as procurement and back office before they consider reducing their teaching staff.

### University Technical College: Houghton Regis

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress has been made on plans for a university technical college in Houghton Regis; when it will open; and if he will make a statement. [47862]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 18 March 2011]:* University technical colleges will be newly-established 14-19 academies which focus on delivering technical education that engages young people and meets the needs of modern business. There has been a very high level of interest in this programme and we need to ensure that we support the proposals which best meet the criteria. The sponsors of the proposed university technical college at Houghton Regis will shortly be invited to send in an application, alongside other proposed UTCs with opening dates of 2012 and beyond. The Department will then decide whether to approve the proposal for further development. Final agreement to open will be subject to satisfactory resolution of any issues identified during the development phase.

### Vocational Guidance

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many meetings officials of his Department have had with officials of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the implementation of the all-age careers service since November 2010; and at what level each such meeting has taken place. [47397]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 17 March 2011]:* Department for Education officials meet very regularly with officials from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, at different working levels, to discuss the implementation of the all-age careers service. Both Departments are represented on a formally established Careers Guidance Project Board and Advisory Group on the all-age careers service.

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much of his Department's funding to local authorities for careers advice and guidance activity in 2010-11 is to be transferred to *(a)* all-age careers service, *(b)* schools and colleges and *(c)* other associated bodies in future years. [47398]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 17 March 2011]:* Local authorities will receive funding through the Early Intervention Grant (EIG), which will replace a number of 2010-11 funding streams including the Connexions grant. It will provide substantial funding (a total of £2,222 million in 2011-12 and £2,307 million in 2012-13) with new flexibility to enable local authorities to act more strategically and target investment early, where it will have the greatest impact. We have not proposed indicative allocations for careers advice or for any other activities. This is for local authorities to decide. Schools' budgets are funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant, which is not ring-fenced for specific activities.

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what arrangements he has made for interim information advice and guidance to young people in connection with Connexions services which have been withdrawn prior to the introduction of the all-age careers service. [47399]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 17 March 2011]:* Local authorities will retain their statutory duty to make available services to encourage, enable or assist the effective participation of young people in education or training. Decisions about the design and targeting of such services, including any changes to Connexions services, are for local authorities to make.

We recognise the importance of communicating clearly to schools how their responsibilities for careers guidance will change, and are developing plans to do so, in order to inform the decisions schools make about appropriate levels of support for their pupils in advance of the formal commencement of the duty to secure access to independent careers guidance in the Education Bill.

### Westminster Academy

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1117-8W, on Westminster Academy, what the total *(a)* travel and *(b)* accommodation costs were in respect of each of the international speakers. [47867]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 18 March 2011]:* As outlined in the reply of 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1117-8W, the Department covered the travel and accommodation costs for each of the international speakers who spoke at the Free Schools Conference in January. This included a return economy flight from the US, accommodation costs at a Government approved hotel and one evening meal.

The total cost came to £5,265.89, of which £3,054.89 was spent on flights, £2,160 spent on accommodation and £51 spent on meals.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Nic Dakin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer questions *(a)* 34896, *(b)* 34897, *(c)* 34894, *(d)* 34873 and *(e)* 34874 tabled on 17 January 2011. [44869]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 7 March 2011]:* Responses to the hon. Member's questions have been issued as follows:

PQ 34896—4 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 657-58W
PQ 34897—7 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 889W
PQ 34894—14 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 55W
PQ 34873—15 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 182W
PQ 34874—14 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 55W

**Mr Raynsford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to respond to Question 39943, on allocation of funding through the pupil premium, tabled on 7 February 2011. [44907]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 8 March 2011]:* A response to the right hon. Member's question was issued on 15 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 176-77W.

## TRANSPORT

### Aviation: Security

**Mr Marcus Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to introduce a US-style crew personnel advanced screening system at UK airports; and if he will make a statement. [47093]

**Mrs Villiers:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 831W, given to the hon. Member for North Wiltshire (Mr Gray).

### Biofuels: EU Law

**Dan Byles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the European Renewable Energy Directive's target of 10 per cent. biofuel use for road transport by 2020 on *(a)* European wheat prices, *(b)* the total amount of agricultural land required for the production of the amount of biofuel required to meet this target and *(c)* the pump price of (i) diesel and (ii) petrol in the UK. [47670]

**Norman Baker:** The European Renewable Energy Directive (RED) requires member states to source 10 per cent of transport energy from renewable sources by

2020 and sets mandatory sustainability standards for biofuels and bioliquids. It is anticipated that all member states will meet the majority of this requirement through the deployment of biofuels.

The Department published an Impact Assessment to accompany the 2009 Renewable Energy Strategy. This estimates that in 2020 the biofuel supplied to meet the RED target will add between 1 and 2.4 pence per litre (ppl) to the price of diesel with petrol prices change within a range between a 2.7 ppl price reduction and a 3.2 ppl price increase. The ranges reflect varying projections of fossil fuel price and agricultural yields.

We have made no specific assessment on the impact on wheat price or agricultural land. The European Commission has published several studies into the projected land use for biofuels supplied to meet the RED. These are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/studies/land_use_change_en.htm

### BRB (Residuary): Finance

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the budget for BRB (Residuary) Ltd *(a)* was for (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11 and *(b)* will be for (A) 2011-12, (B) 2012-13, (C) 2013-14 and (D) 2014-15. [46648]

**Mrs Villiers:** Financial results for 2009-10 are published in BRB(R)'s annual report. The report and accounts for the company are available on their website at:

www.brbr.co.uk

Audited accounts for 2010-11 will be published on their website in due course. Spending and income in respect of the company's activities in future years are commercially sensitive.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the revenue budget for departmental administration was as allocated *(a)* for 2010-11 by the previous Administration and *(b)* in the March 2010 budget. [46644]

**Norman Baker:** The 2010-11 administration cost limit for the Department for Transport was £276,102,000. This figure was agreed as part of the spring supplementary estimate process under the previous Administration and was not revised in the March 2010 budget.

### Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee: Finance

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate has been made of the budget for the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15. [46645]

**Norman Baker:** The budget for Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee in 2010-11 is £496,000.

No final budget allocation has been made for DPTAC for 2011-12.

### First Great Western Railways

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with the management of First Group on the (i) First Great Western franchise and (ii) the exercise of the 2013 break clause in the franchise agreement. [47395]

**Mrs Villiers** *[holding answer 17 March 2011]:* The Secretary of State and Department for Transport officials meet with franchised train operators and their owners regularly. These discussions have included First Great Western's options in relation to the termination date of the franchise should it pass the franchise Continuation Review.

### Highways Agency: Finance

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to reduce the Highways Agency revenue budget; how much each action he plans to take will save; and how much will be saved by each such action in each financial year of the comprehensive spending review period. [46640]

**Mike Penning:** The Highways Agency is currently working on plans to make the necessary reductions in expenditure within the spending review period ending in 2014-15.

The three key areas where savings are planned to be made are;

the delivery of efficiency savings on maintenance

the delivery of efficiency savings on major road schemes

the delivery of Traffic Officer Service reforms

The document published on the 28 October 2010, "Investment in Highways Transport Schemes" describes some of the key actions required. More details on the Highways Agency indicative budgets for the next four years will be published in the 2011-12 Highways Agency business plan which will be available at the end of this month.

### Large Goods Vehicles: Driving Offences

**Dr Poulter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to ensure drivers of light and heavy goods vehicles registered overseas are prosecuted for motoring offences committed in England and Wales. [45883]

**Mike Penning:** The police and examiners from the Department's Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) are empowered to demand on-the-spot deposit payments from those offenders who do not have a satisfactory UK address. Such payments are taken either to cover the fixed penalty for the relevant offence or as a form of surety covering the potential fine for an offence which will be prosecuted in court.

### Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the progress of the development of infrastructure in the North East to support low-carbon vehicles. [47856]

**Norman Baker:** The North East was awarded £3 million through the Government's Plugged-In Places programme to support the delivery of around 1,900 public, workplace and domestic chargepoints for plug-in electric vehicles by March 2013. The project's delivery is currently on-track.

### Piracy: Horn of Africa

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the effect on UK shipping of the incidence of piracy off the coast of the Horn of Africa. [46738]

**Mike Penning:** I am in regular contact with my ministerial colleagues in other Government Departments regarding physical protection of vessels, the possible use of armed security companies, and land based solutions for the causes of piracy. Cross-ministerial meetings with industry representatives have also been held to discuss the issue.

### Piracy: Somalia

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he made of the effects on the UK economy of piracy launched from the coast of Somalia. [46458]

**Mike Penning:** Piracy is a global issue and it is difficult to fully calculate the cost to the UK both in terms of costs to industry and the Government's costs to resource the international efforts on counter piracy off the coast of Somalia. The Department is working with industry to estimate costs to the UK and I have met with them on a number of occasions to discuss this issue. A recently published paper from the One Earth Foundation calculates the global economic costs of maritime piracy to be between $7 billion and $12 billion.

### Railways: Construction

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the change will be in the number of fast trains to London from *(a)* Coventry, *(b)* Liverpool, *(c)* Manchester, *(d)* Stoke-on-Trent, *(e)* Wolverhampton, *(f)* Tamworth and *(g)* Nuneaton as a result of the High Speed 2 line; [46153]

(2) how many passenger journeys on conventional trains are projected to be *(a)* slower and *(b)* disrupted by the High Speed 2 line; [46154]

(3) which train services would be *(a)* slower and *(b)* cancelled due to High Speed 2 being built; and which routes would be affected. [46155]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** A national high speed rail network would provide significant opportunities to improve services on the existing network by releasing capacity currently used for long-distance services between major conurbations. Such released capacity could be used in many ways, including additional fast commuter or regional services, or improvements to east-west routes. At this stage, no decisions have been taken on timetables that will not be in operation for at least 15 years.

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what analysis his Department has undertaken on the timescales for the realisation of economic benefits from High Speed 2 in *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* Manchester and *(c)* Leeds; [46156]

(2) what estimate he has made of the economic benefits to *(a)* Northampton, *(b)* Rugby and *(c)* Milton Keynes as a result of High Speed 2; [46170]

(3) what his estimate is of the monetary value of the benefits of High Speed 2 in each financial year from 2026-27 until completion of the line; [46175]

(4) what estimate he has made of the effect on the economic output of *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* Leeds, *(c)* Manchester, *(d)* London, *(e)* the North West, *(f)* the North East, *(g)* the East Midlands and *(h)* the South East of completion of the High Speed 2 line to (i) Birmingham, (ii) Leeds and (iii) Manchester. [46176]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** A national high speed rail network would support balanced and sustainable economic growth across the UK. The Government's proposed Y-shaped network is estimated to bring quantifiable benefits of £44 billion to the UK over a 60-year period, as well as significant additional non-monetised benefits from its contribution to job creation and regeneration and its long-term effect in stimulating growth.

The analysis undertaken at this stage in the overall project on where and when these benefits might accrue is set out in the suite of documents published to support the current consultation on high speed rail. Further information is available in previous reports prepared by HS2 Ltd and published by the Department for Transport. All of this information is available on the consultation website at:

http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk

and the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/highspeedrail/

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps he has taken to ensure that *(a)* highways, *(b)* rail and *(c)* local transport schemes that his Department is committed to build before 2015 are completed before the opening of High Speed 2. [46159]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** The status of existing committed projects will be unaffected by the introduction of HS2.

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent meetings he has had with *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations which may offer third party funding for High Speed Rail 2; and what estimates he has made of the level of third party funding for the construction of High Speed 2; [46160]

(2) when he plans to publish further information on funding arrangements for the cost of High Speed 2. [46161]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** The funding principles that the Government propose to employ are set out in the consultation document. Further work on funding options would be undertaken in preparation for a hybrid Bill.

I have had discussions with large numbers of companies and other organisations about a wide range of issues related to HS2.

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate he has made of the annual passenger numbers using the proposed link between the High Speed 2 and High Speed 1 lines; [46162]

(2) over what time period the construction cost of the link between High Speed 1 and High Speed 2 will be paid off. [46163]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** Information on the proposed link to HS1, including on the potential demand for services using the link, is set out in a report prepared by HS2 Ltd, which is available at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110131042819/http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/highspeedrail/proposedroute/hs1connection/

No estimate has been undertaken at this stage of the commercial viability of the HS1 link that is the extent to which the revenues generated by the HS1 link would be expected to exceed its construction cost.

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the annual cost of potential delays in completion of the High Speed 2 line to Birmingham beyond the target date. [46165]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** The Government have set out a clear programme for achieving their target opening date.

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of potential carbon emissions expected to be generated during the construction of High Speed 2; [46166]

(2) what his estimate is of the annual reduction in carbon emissions which sum to 23 million tonnes as a result of modal shifts following the introduction of the High Speed London to West Midlands line; [46167]

(3) what estimate he has made of *(a)* the carbon emissions expected to be produced by High Speed 2 annually and *(b)* the expected change in national carbon emissions as a result of High Speed 2 being operational. [46180]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** Information on the carbon savings generated by the initial London-West Midlands phase of HS2, as well as its construction and operational carbon impacts, has been published as part of the current consultation on high speed rail. In particular I refer the hon. Member to the main consultation document and to the Appraisal of Sustainability. These are available at:

http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/library/documents/consultation-document

and

http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/library/documents/appraisal-sustainability

respectively.

The Government expect that the full Y-shaped high speed rail network would have the potential to deliver more significant reductions in carbon, as it would be likely to attract higher levels of modal shift from road and aviation; however, no detailed estimate has been made at this stage.

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what increase in capacity would result from *(a)* 14, *(b)* 15, *(c)* 16, *(d)* 17 and *(e)* 18 new train paths per hour from High Speed 2. [46168]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** The level of additional capacity provided would depend on the service pattern run and the rolling stock used. For example, services through-running onto the existing network would use shorter, classic-compatible rolling stock. The service pattern modelled by HS2 Ltd for the full proposed Y-shaped network is set out in the Economic Case for HS2, published on the consultation website at:

http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate he has made of the number of buildings that will be demolished during the construction of High Speed 2; and what the location is of each of those buildings; [46169]

(2) what his estimate is of the cost to his Department of compensation to be paid to *(a)* individuals, *(b)* private companies and *(c)* local authorities affected by construction of the High Speed 2 line. [46179]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** Data on the likely property impacts of the London to West Midlands line broken down by area are available in the Appraisal of Sustainability published as part of the current consultation. This is available on the consultation website at

http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/library/documents/appraisal-sustainability

An estimate of the total land and compensation cost is set out in the Economic Case document published as part of the current consultation. This is available on the consultation website at

http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/library/documents/economic-case

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what his estimate is of the proportion of the jobs to be created by High Speed 2 *(a)* as a result of the proposed station at Old Oak Common, *(b)* in the West Midlands and *(c)* around Euston that will be (i) permanent and (ii) part-time; [46171]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time jobs to be created by High Speed 2; and what estimate he has made of the (i) location and (ii) type of such jobs; [46177]

(3) what proportion of the jobs that will be created by High Speed 2 will be in *(a)* London, *(b)* the North West, *(c)* the North East, *(d)* the South East, *(e)* the South West, *(f)* the East Midlands, *(g)* the West Midlands and *(h)* the East of England. [46475]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** Information on the numbers, types and location of jobs supported by the initial London and the West Midlands phase of the Government's proposed high speed rail network have been published as part of the current consultation on high speed rail. In particular I refer the hon. Member to the main consultation document and to appendix 3 to the Appraisal of Sustainability, available at

http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/library/documents/consultation-document

and

http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/library/documents/appraisal-sustainability

respectively.

The number of new jobs supported by the full proposed network would be expected to be significantly higher than those from the initial London-West Midlands phase alone; however, no detailed assessment has been carried out at this stage.

The Government also believe that new high speed links would support broader improvements in economic performance and productivity, as well as helping attract inward investment which would have the potential to support further increases in employment.

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the annual revenue the High Speed 2 will generate once the line has reached *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* Leeds and *(c)* Manchester. [46172]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** This information is already in the public domain. Details of the estimated fares revenues generated by both the proposed Y-shaped high speed rail network and the initial London to west midlands phase are set out in the 'Economic Case for HS2', published on the consultation website at:

http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/library/documents/economic-case

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the socio-economic composition of passengers expected to use the new High Speed 2 line. [46174]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** HS2 Ltd estimate that around 30% of journeys on the London-West Midlands line would be made by people travelling for business purposes and the remaining 70% would be made by people travelling for other reasons, with leisure trips likely to be particularly prominent.

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the High Speed 2 line will be a dedicated high speed track for the route between Manchester and Liverpool. [46488]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** The Government are currently consulting on their proposed national high speed rail network. Under the Government's proposed strategy, Liverpool would be served by high speed services on the London Manchester route through-running on to the conventional network from the main high speed line.

**Andrea Leadsom:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria he applied to the selection of interested parties who were invited to the launch of his Department's High Speed 2 consultation; and for what reasons members of anti-High Speed 2 action groups who had registered to attend were not invited. [47282]

**Mr Philip Hammond** *[holding answer 17 March 2011]*: The launch event for the high speed rail consultation had limited space, and focussed on national and regional business leaders and local Government representatives. Invitations were issued to individuals inviting them to register. These invitations were personal and it was made clear that they were not transferable without prior agreement.

However, the consultation process has been designed to allow all those interested to learn more about the Government's proposals and to register their views—including through a series of public road shows, a dedicated phone line and comprehensive online information.

### Railways: Fees and Charges

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what economic analysis his Department has undertaken on the anticipated ticket pricing plan for travelling at *(a)* peak and *(b)* off-peak periods on High Speed 2; [46157]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the effect of ticket price on modal shifts to other forms of transport following the introduction of High Speed 2; [46164]

(3) what estimate he has made of the proposed cost of travel between *(a)* London and Manchester, *(b)* London and Leeds and *(c)* London to Birmingham on High Speed 2; and what proportion of the ticket revenue is expected to be used for expenditure on (i) the High Speed 2 line and (ii) conventional rail improvements. [46173]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** The modelling work undertaken by HS2 Ltd in preparing an economic case for high speed rail assumes that the existing fares structure on the conventional network would also be employed on the high speed rail network. This appraisal work demonstrates that the high speed line could operate effectively, generating sufficient demand and revenues, without needing to charge premium fares.

"The Economic Case for HS2", published on the consultation website at:

http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk

and HS2 Ltd's original report to Government "High Speed Rail: London to the West Midlands and Beyond", available on the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/highspeedrail/

set out the results of a number of high-level sensitivity tests relating to different approaches to pricing on HS2 and across transport modes. As the first line would not open, subject to the results of consultation, for another 15 years it would be premature to speculate in relation to the precise fares on any given route.

### Railways: Finance

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to reduce the rail revenue budget; how much each action he plans to take will save; and how much will be saved by each such action in each financial year of the comprehensive spending review period. [46639]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** One of the Government's key objectives is to ensure our railways become more affordable and sustainable. Measures we are taking to reduce the rail revenue budget include:

Increasing rail fares by RPI+3% for three years from January 2012;

Reforming the rail industry, including through reforming how rail franchises are let;

Reprofiling the delivery of the Thameslink and Intercity Express Programmes; and

Improving the procurement of various HLOS interventions.

The Department for Transport is currently engaging with the industry in order to agree how all of these changes will impact on levels of subsidy and premia it receives from train operating companies.

Sir Roy McNulty is nearing completion of his report into value for money on the UK Railway and I expect his recommendations to lead to further actions to reduce the rail revenue budget over time.

### Railways: Greater London

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of rail services each day which will be slowed down by the proposed High Speed 2 interchange at Old Oak Common; and how many passenger journeys this will affect. [46152]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** No decisions have been or should be taken at this stage about what proportion of Great Western Main Line services would stop at the proposed HS2 interchange station at Old Oak Common.

Passengers on any services that did stop at Old Oak Common would see a small increase in journey time into central London, but would benefit from enhanced connectivity to Crossrail, and Heathrow Express, as well as to the proposed new high speed network which would reduce travel times for many journeys to the midlands and the north.

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Mayor of London and *(b)* train operators on the reliability of Oyster card readers at ticket barriers at mainline rail stations; and if he will make a statement. [46982]

**Mrs Villiers:** There have been no discussions between Department for Transport Ministers and the Mayor of London or train operators specifically about the reliability of Oyster card readers.

The maintenance of Oyster validators is the responsibility of Transport for London.

### Rescue Services: Helicopters

**Mr Donohoe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding he has allocated to meeting current requirements for search and rescue helicopters in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [46362]

**Mike Penning:** The Department for Transport has allocated £179 million for funding search and rescue operations at the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's helicopter bases during this spending review period. Following the cancellation of the search and rescue helicopter procurement in February, an announcement regarding future search and rescue arrangements will be made once a way forward has been agreed.

### Rolling Stock: Safety

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions trains or rolling stock used on the Norwich to London railway line failed reportable safety inspections in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008, *(c)* 2009 and *(d)* 2010; and what information his Department holds on instances of employees (i) operating trains and (ii) managing infrastructure on the Norwich to London railway line without the appropriate safety certificate or authorisation in each such year. [45836]

**Mrs Villiers:** This information is not held by the Department for Transport. Issues of operational rail safety are a matter for the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR), as the independent health and safety regulator of Britain's railways, and the relevant rail industry duty holders. The hon. Member may wish to contact the Office of Rail Regulation for further information at the following address:

Office of Rail Regulation
One Kemble Street
London
WC2B 4AN

### Sea Rescue

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* payroll and *(b)* running costs of (i) Brixham and (ii) Falmouth Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (A) were in (1) 2008-09 and (2) 2009-10 and (B) are estimated to be in 2010-11. [47061]

**Mike Penning:** The payroll and running costs of Brixham and Falmouth Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC) are shown in the following table:

| | | | £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *2008-09 Costs* | *2009-10 Costs* | *2010-11 Forecast* |
| *Brixham MRCC* | | | |
| Payroll costs | 666,075 | 681,790 | 696,291 |
| Running costs | 121,147 | 154,479 | 123,699 |
| Total costs | 787,222 | 836,269 | 819,990 |
| *Falmouth MRCC* | | | |
| Payroll costs | 723,121 | 764,120 | 787,040 |
| Running costs | 166,130 | 152,906 | 154,981 |
| Total costs | 889,251 | 917,026 | 942,021 |

*Costs include:*

The running costs include some accommodation costs which relate to other Maritime and Coastguard Agency co-located offices and non-separable district office costs.

*Costs exclude:*

Running and maintenance of National Information Communication Technology infrastructure such as radio communications networks, mast and towers, as costs are not held on a site by site basis.

Similarly, capital project costs such as IT and equipment refresh are not held on a site by site basis.

Sector Managers (those responsible for managing the volunteer Coastguard Rescue Officers) pay and cost of Coastguard Rescue Officers.

### Small Businesses: Regulation

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions his Department has consulted representatives of small businesses on the effects of proposed new regulations since 6 May 2010. [46146]

**Mike Penning:** The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, I can inform you that small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are represented on specific sector policy working groups wherever possible. In addition, when impact assessments for new regulations are being produced, there is a specific test to ensure that SMEs are not disproportionately affected.

### Transport: Sustainable Development

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much revenue budget has been allocated to the local sustainable transport fund in 2010-11; and what measures this allocation will be used to fund. [46638]

**Norman Baker:** Funding for the local sustainable transport fund will commence in 2011-12 and the annual allocations are set out in the following table:

*£ million*

| | *2011-12* | *2012-13* | *2013-14* | *2014-15* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Revenue | 50 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 350 |
| Capital | 30 | 40 | 60 | 80 | 210 |
| Total | 80 | 140 | 160 | 180 | 560 |

The overwhelming majority of funds will be used to support projects advocated by local authorities.

The remainder of funds will be used to support Bikeability training in each financial year, with £11 million revenue funding set aside in 2011-12. The level of Bikeability funding from 2012-15 has yet to be determined. In addition, the following projects will be funded in 2011-12 only, in order to maintain momentum on sustainable travel while local authorities prepare their proposals:

£13 million for Links to Schools, Bike Club and walking to school initiatives;

£1 million for the Transport Direct cycle journey planner; and

£250,000 to take forward business to business initiatives on alternatives to travel.

### West Coast Railway Line: Construction

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the costs of a full recast of the West Coast Main Line timetable as a result of High Speed 2. [46158]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** There would be costs associated with the reuse of released capacity to improve commuter, freight and other services on existing lines, including the West Coast Main Line. However, these costs are anticipated to be significantly lower than the cost savings generated by the removal of many long distance services from the existing infrastructure, which would be replaced by services on the high speed network. However, no final decisions have been or should be taken at this stage about service patterns or the use of released capacity.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Angel Investors

**Nicola Blackwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent progress he has made in improving incentives for angel investors. [47954]

**Mr Prisk:** Government continue to support the early stage market through Enterprise Capital Funds which can include angel finance as part of the requisite private investment. Often loans to high growth small and medium enterprises (SMEs) comprise a balanced package of finance comprising Enterprise Finance Guarantee-backed loans and angel finance.

Tax incentives, including the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS), support business angel investment. The Government's Green Paper "Financing Business Growth" published in November 2010 set out that Government will continue to ensure that the targeted tax incentives for investment, the EIS and venture capital trusts, effectively meet their objective of incentivising additional equity investment into small companies, and will continue to seek viable options to ensure the tax system supports, where possible, access to equity finance for SMEs.

The Government have encouraged their SME investment arm, Capital for Enterprise Ltd., and Business Angel groups to put together a bid to the regional growth fund for a business angel co-investment fund. If the bid is successful, this will boost angel investment in early stage high growth potential companies across England.

### Apollo Group and University of Phoenix

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have met representatives of (i) Apollo Group Inc and (ii) the university of Phoenix to discuss higher education in England since his appointment. [48457]

**Mr Willetts:** Ministers and officials have not met with representatives of Apollo Group Inc. nor with representatives of the university of Phoenix.

I have met with representatives of BPP University College of Professional Studies, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Apollo Group, as a part of wider meetings. Officials will have had conversations with staff from BPP as part of the normal course of business.

### Apprentices: Females

**Tom Blenkinsop:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of apprenticeships in (a) England, (b) the North East, (c) Teesside and (d) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency were taken up by women in the last 12 months. [47735]

**Mr Hayes:** The following table shows the number and percentage of apprenticeship starts by gender for England, the North East region and Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland parliamentary constituency for 2009/10, the latest year for which full year data are available. We hold information only at region, local education authority and parliamentary constituency levels of geography, therefore data for Teesside are not presented.

| | *Female* | | *Male* | | *Total* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Count* | *Percentage* | *Count* | *Percentage* | *Count* | *Percentage* |
| England | 138,640 | 49.6 | 141,030 | 50.4 | 279,700 | 100 |
| North East | 9,550 | 51.6 | 8,960 | 48.4 | 18,510 | 100 |
| Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland | 350 | 55.0 | 290 | 45.0 | 640 | 100 |

*Notes:*
1. All Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 apart from Total England figures which are rounded to the nearest 100. Percentages are calculated based on unrounded figures.
2. Geography information is based upon the home postcode of the learner.
*Source:*
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 January:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Both the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department for Education are responsible for the promotion of equality of access to apprenticeships. The National Apprenticeships Service (NAS), as the body responsible for promoting apprenticeships to employers and to potential apprentices, manages its systems to ensure equal access to information about the programme and to apprenticeship vacancies. A priority for NAS is to address stereotyping and under-representation across apprenticeships including gender, race and disability.

### Apprentices: Totnes

**Dr Wollaston:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeships were created in Totnes constituency in the last 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the number to be created in the next 12 months. [47597]

**Mr Hayes:** There were 450 apprenticeship starts in Totnes parliamentary constituency in 2009/10, the latest year for which full year data are available.

The apprenticeships programme is demand led; Government does not set targets for apprenticeships but provides funding and forecasts the overall number of places that may be afforded. We rely on employers and providers to work together to offer sufficient opportunities to meet local demand.

This is underpinned by this Government's commitment that by 2014-15, we will have in place sufficient funding for 75,000 more adult apprenticeship places than the previous Government were providing.

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 January:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

**Dr Wollaston:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of apprenticeships in Totnes constituency were taken up by women in the last 12 months. [47716]

**Mr Hayes:** Table 1 shows the number and percentage of apprenticeship starts by gender for Totnes parliamentary constituency for 2009/10, the latest year for which full year data are available.

| | *Female* | | *Male* | | *Total* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Count* | *Percentage* | *Count* | *Percentage* | *Count* | *Percentage* |
| Totnes constituency | 210 | 48 | 230 | 52 | 450 | 100 |

*Notes:*
1. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Percentages are calculated based on unrounded figures.
2. Geography information is based upon the home postcode of the learner.
*Source:*
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 January:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Both the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department for Education are responsible for the promotion of equality of access to apprenticeships. The National Apprenticeships Service (NAS), as the body responsible for promoting apprenticeships to employers and to potential apprentices, manages its systems to ensure equal access to information about the programme and to apprenticeship vacancies. A priority for NAS is to address stereotyping and under-representation across apprenticeships including gender, race and disability.

### Arms Trade

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value was of the sale of *(a)* arms systems, *(b)* weapons and *(c)* munitions to (i) each other EU member state, (ii) each other member of the Commonwealth and (iii) each other country in each year since 2000. [46279]

**Mr Prisk:** Information on arms exports is published in the annual and quarterly reports on strategic export controls. These reports contain detailed information on export licences issued, refused or revoked, by destination, including the overall value, type (e.g. military, other) and a summary of the items covered by these licences. They are available to view at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/publications-and-documents/publications1/annual-reports/export-controls1

The information on the website refers to licences issued and does not necessarily equate to goods exported.

Information on the value of defence export deliveries by commodity type and region was published in the Ministry of Defence's (MOD) UK Defence Statistics. The MOD no longer compiles estimates of identified defence equipment export deliveries because the data do not directly support MOD policy making and operations.

The final estimates were published in the 2008 edition of UK Defence Statistics (UKDS).

Data up to and including 2007 are published online in past editions of UKDS (formerly tables 1.13 and 1.14) at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/modintranet/UKDS/UKDS2008/c1/table113.html

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/modintranet/UKDS/UKDS2008/c1/table114.html

### Arms Trade: Africa

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1096-97W, on Arab states: arms trade, (1) what the cost to the public purse has been of hosting each official delegation cited in the answer; [47283]

(2) which members of the Libyan delegation which attended FIAS '10 also visited Royal Air Force establishments; which establishments they visited; and at what cost to the public purse. [47284]

**Mr Prisk** *[holding answer 17 March 2011]:* The majority of the costs of hosting these delegations were met by the private sector.

The estimated costs which were met by public funds were:

| | | £ |
|---|---|---|
| May 2008 | Bahraini Army delegation visit to demonstration of artillery fire control equipment | 3,705 |
| July 2008 | Bahrain delegation to Farnborough International Air Show 2008 | 2,908 |
| November 2009 | Libyan delegation visit to defence companies | 1,929 |
| March 2010 | Egyptian delegation at the Home Office Scientific Development Branch 2010 exhibition | 2,492 |

Four members of the Libyan delegation visiting Farnborough International Air Show 2010 also visited RAF Boulmer and RAF Cranwell. The Libyan delegation was lead by two Air Force brigadier generals, and accompanied by two Air Force colonels. The visit was at no cost to the UK Government.

### Beer: Competition

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effect on public houses of the operation of the beer tie. [48058]

**Mr Davey:** The Government are currently monitoring the industry's progress towards self-reform within the timeframe set out by the Business, Innovation and Skills Select Committee. The Office of Fair Trading's final decision on the Campaign for Real Ale's (CAMRA) super complaint regarding pub ties concluded that the pub sector in the UK is competitive overall and it has not found evidence of competition problems that are having a significant adverse impact on consumers.

### Business: Government Assistance

**Anna Soubry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that small and medium-sized businesses are *(a)* aware of and *(b)* have access to financial support measures provided by his Department. [44384]

**Mr Prisk:** The Business Link website is the primary channel to provide businesses with information regarding the Government's financial support measures for small and medium-sized businesses, such as the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme (EFG), Enterprise Capital Funds, grants, and regional support, along with a range of practical guides and advice on how to access finance and business support.

The Enterprise Finance Guarantee is available to unlock lending to viable SMEs who lack sufficient collateral or financial track record to access a normal commercial loan. Front line staff at the 44 accredited EFG lenders (including the major retail banks) are offered information and training on EFG and will offer viable businesses an EFG backed loan if the business is not suitable for a normal commercial loan.

Businesses seek venture capital funding through a number of referral channels including their accountants and business support intermediaries who have relationships with fund managers. A key feature of the publicly supported investment readiness programmes is that they support the referral of suitable SMEs to potential investors (in particular business angels and their networks, and regional venture capital funds).

### Micro-Business: Statutory Rights

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many employees would lose the right to *(a)* request flexible leave, *(b)* statutory maternity rights and *(c)* shared parental leave if an exemption from such rights is introduced for micro-businesses. [48221]

**Mr Davey:** The Government has no plans to exempt micro-businesses from current statutory maternity or parental leave provisions.

We will repeal the regulations extending the right to request flexible working to parents of 17-year-olds, which were due to come into force on 6 April 2011.

We estimate that 291,000 parents of 17-year-olds would have been eligible to request flexible working under the regulations. However the extension was expected to generate only 4,600 additional or new requests, as many employers already accept and grant requests for all employees regardless of parental status.

The Government remains committed to extending the right to request flexible working to all employees in due course. We will consult on this extension later in the spring. This consultation will include questions on the relationship between the micro-business exemption on new domestic regulations and the right to request flexible working.

### Rural Businesses

**Dr Wollaston:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what support his Department provides to *(a)* reduce the burden of (i) taxation and (ii) administration on and *(b)* increase the rates of lending to small rural businesses. [47601]

**Mr Gauke:** I have been asked to reply.

To reduce the burden of taxation on small business, the Government announced in the June 2010 Budget that it will reduce the small profits rate of corporation tax from 21% to 20% from 1 April 2011. This reduction will enable approximately 850,000 companies with profits below £300,000 to retain a greater a share of their profits to reinvest. For small business with employees, the Government announced, from April 2011, a rise in the secondary threshold for national insurance contributions and income tax personal allowance. These measures will reverse the impact of the previous Government's planned £6 billion a year rise in the taxation of labour and will reduce the amount the Government takes, from what an employer sets aside to cover wages, before it becomes take home pay.

The Government launched the independent Office of Tax Simplification in July 2010 and tasked them with a review of tax reliefs and a review of small business taxation. The Office of Tax Simplification's final report on tax reliefs was published on 3 March while the interim report on small business taxation was published on 10 March. The Government will respond to these reports at Budget. The Government is committed to simplification and easing the burden of tax administration on business.

On 9 February the Chancellor announced a new lending commitment by the UK's biggest high street banks. As part of these commitments:

> The banks intend to lend £190 billion of new credit to businesses in 2011, up from £179 billion in 2010. If demand exceeds this, the banks will lend more. £76 billion of this lending will be to small and medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). This is a 15% increase on 2010 lending of £66 billion.
>
> The banks have also proposed to increase the size of the £1.5 billion Business Growth Fund (set up by the British Bankers Association Taskforce), announced in October last year, which will invest in small businesses with strong growth potential. The four major UK banks had already pledged £1.5 billion to the Business Growth Fund. They have now committed to increase its capital by a further £1 billion over the next three years, front-loaded over the next two years so that more help can be given to businesses sooner. This will increase the amount of equity investment allocated to SMEs, at the same time helping to attract further bank lending to these businesses.

These measures apply to all small businesses, including rural small businesses.

## Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on *(a)* salaries and *(b)* pension entitlements for special advisers in the financial year 2010-11 to date. [46586]

**Mr Davey:** I refer the hon. Member to the information provided on the Cabinet Office website:

> http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

The estimated pay bills shown include pension costs. Details of pension arrangements are set out in the 'Model contract for Special Advisers' also available via this link.

## Departmental Pay

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to ensure that his published departmental organisational chart includes the names and responsibilities of all staff paid over £58,200 per annum in his Department and in the non-departmental public bodies and agencies for which he is responsible. [43545]

**Mr Davey:** The coalition Government is committed to improving transparency and the coalition programme includes commitments to publish salary information for the most senior civil servants and to publish organograms for the entire organisation.

As a first step, the Government published the details of 345 senior officials in Departments, agencies and non-departmental public bodies in post at 31 March 2010 whose rate of pay was £150,000 or more. Publication of name, job title and base salary details was then extended to some lower levels of the senior civil service (SCS) as part of the organograms that were published last October.

Although individualised salary details for the most junior level of the SCS (Pay Bands 1 and 1A) were not released, the numbers and grades of staff in each of their teams and the total salary costs of that team were published. Organograms will next be updated by the end of May to show structures as at 31 March.

Good progress is being made across the civil service and beyond in improving transparency of how government works and uses its resources. We are now in a period of consolidating and embedding transparency processes into business as usual. We are always looking to go further and we will continue over the coming months to review, and where necessary improve, the quality and extent of data being released.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office, the Intellectual Property Office and the Skills Funding Agency and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

*Letter from John Alty, dated 10 March 2011:*

> I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 25th February 2011 to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.
>
> The Coalition Government is committed to improving transparency and the Coalition programme includes commitments to publish salary information for the most Senior Civil Servants and to publish organograms for the entire organisation.
>
> As a first step, the Government published the details of 345 senior officials in departments, agencies and non-departmental public bodies in post at 31 March 2010 whose rate of pay was £150,000 or more. Publication of name, job title and base salary details was then extended to some lower levels of the Senior Civil Service (SCS) as part of the organograms that were published last October.
>
> Although individualised salary details for the most junior level of the SCS (Pay Bands 1 and 1A) were not released, the numbers and grades of staff in each of their teams and the total salary costs of that team were published. Organograms will next be updated by the end of May to show structures as at 31 March 2011.
>
> Good progress is being made across the civil service and beyond in improving transparency of how government works and uses its resources. We are now in a period of consolidating and

embedding transparency processes into business as usual. We are always looking to go further and we will continue over the coming months to review, and where necessary improve, the quality and extent of data being released.

*Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 10 March 2011:*

Thank you for your question addressed to the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills asking him to ensure that his Departmental organisational chart includes the names and responsibilities of all staff in the Skills Funding Agency (the Agency) paid over £58,200 per annum.

Please be advised that the Coalition Government is committed to improving transparency and the Coalition programme includes commitments to publish salary information for the most senior civil servants and to publish organograms for the entire organisation.

As a first step, the Government published the details of 345 senior officials in departments, agencies and non-departmental public bodies in post at 31 March 2010 whose rate of pay was £150,000 or more. Publication of name, job title and base salary details was then extended to some lower levels of the Senior Civil Service (SCS) as part of the organograms that were published last October.

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Good progress is being made across the civil service and beyond in improving transparency of how government works and uses its resources. We are now in a period of consolidating and embedding transparency processes into business as usual. We are always looking to go further and we will continue over the coming months to review, and where necessary improve, the quality and extent of data being released.

*Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 9 March 2011:*

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 25 February 2011, UIN 43545 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

In line with guidance issued by the Civil Service Capability Group on 9 October 2010 Companies House publishes the names and responsibilities of all staff in the Senior Civil Service in its Annual Report, which is available on our website. We are not required to publish the names and responsibilities of all staff earning over £58,200, this applies to Non Departmental Public Bodies only.

*Letter from Peter Mason, dated 10 March 2011:*

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (formerly National Weights and Measures Laboratory) to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 25 February 2011 reference 2010/4219 to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking if he will take steps to ensure that his published Departmental organisational chart includes the names and responsibilities of all staff paid over £58,200 per annum in his Department and in the non-departmental public bodies and agencies for which he is responsible.

The Agency publishes the names and positions of all staff paid over £58,200 per annum within the remuneration report of our Annual Report and Accounts as they are all members of the Management Board. This is available on our website along with a more detailed organogram of the whole Agency.

The Agency will also publish required staff and salary information as part of the Departmental organisation chart.

*Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 21 March 2011:*

The Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question, if he will take steps to ensure that his published Departmental organisational chart includes the names and responsibilities of all staff paid over £58,200 per annum in his Department and in the non-departmental public bodies and agencies for which he is responsible.

The Insolvency Service executive agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is committed to improving transparency and continuing the Government Coalition programme, which includes a commitment to publish organograms for The Insolvency Service. As part of its annual report, The Insolvency Service publishes a remuneration report providing salary information for the members of its directing board, which includes all members of the Senior Civil Service within The Insolvency Service.

## Departmental Policy

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what account he has taken of the Compact between the Government and Civil Society in policy development. [42613]

**Mr Davey:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for Civil Society, the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office, the hon. Member for Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner (Mr Hurd) on 4 March 2001, *Official Report*, column 680W.

## Departmental Press: Subscriptions

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has a subscription to the *Financial Times* Online. [47855]

**Mr Davey:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, does not have a Department-wide subscription to the *Financial Times* online. There are 38 individual user accounts for accessing *FT* content online.

## Departmental Public Bodies

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which public bodies sponsored by his Department *(a)* have been and *(b)* are to be closed, merged or reorganised following his appointment; and how many (i) women and (ii) men who are public appointees at each body will no longer hold such an appointment in consequence. [47111]

**Mr Davey:** Since May 2010, the Hearing Aid Council, the Union Modernisation Fund Supervisory Board, SITPRO Ltd., the Strategic Advisory Board for Intellectual Property and the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Advisory Body have closed. This has resulted in the following number of men and women who are public appointees relinquishing such an appointment in consequence.

| *Body* | *Male appointees*[1] | *Female appointees*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| The Hearing Aid Council | 12 | 1 |
| SITPRO Ltd. | 5 | — |
| Strategic Advisory Board for Intellectual Property | 4 | 2 |
| Union Modernisation Fund Supervisory Board | 7 | 1 |
| Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Advisory Body | 16 | 5 |

[1] Ministerial appointments as at 31 March 2010, as in BIS Public Bodies Report 2010.

In addition the Government have announced proposals, subject as necessary to legislation and consultation, to abolish: the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Arbitration Tribunal; British Nuclear Fuels Ltd.; British Shipbuilders; Competition Service; Consumer Focus; the regional development agencies. In the event that decisions are taken to abolish these bodies, the following numbers of men and women who are public appointees would relinquish such an appointment in consequence:

| *Body* | *Male appointees*[1] | *Female appointees*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| British Shipbuilders | 1 | — |
| Competition Service | — | 1 |
| Consumer Focus | 19 | 11 |
| *Regional development agencies* | | |
| Advantage West Midlands | 12 | 3 |
| East Midlands Development Agency | 10 | 4 |
| East of England Development Agency | 9 | 5 |
| North West Development Agency | 11 | 4 |
| One North East | 10 | 5 |
| South East England Development Agency | 11 | 4 |
| South West of England Regional Development Agency | 10 | 5 |
| Yorkshire Forward | 10 | 5 |

[1] Ministerial appointments as at 31 March 2010, as in BIS Public Bodies Report 2010.

There are no public appointments to British Nuclear Fuels Ltd. I am not aware of any current appointments to the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Arbitration Tribunal.

The Government have also announced proposals to:

Merge: the Office of Fair Trading and the Competition Commission; the Central Arbitration Committee and the Certification Office; and Postcomm and Ofcom;

Change the status of or reorganise: Competition Appeals Tribunal; Copyright Tribunal; Design Council; Local Better Regulation Office; NESTA (National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts); UK Commission for Employment and Skills.

The majority of these proposals are subject to further review, consultation and/or implementation of legislation (primarily the Public Bodies Bill.) It is therefore too early to say what the impact on public appointments will be.

### Economic Growth: Birmingham

**Shabana Mahmood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department took to promote economic growth and activity in Birmingham in each of the last six months. [43115]

**Mr Prisk:** The White Paper on Local Growth, published in October 2010, sets out the Government's approach to rebalancing the economy and driving sustainable growth. Initiatives include encouraging local enterprise partnerships that will see local business and civic leaders working together to support jobs and growth in their communities, and establishing the Regional Growth Fund, which will provide funding of £1.4 billion over three years to help communities make the transition to private sector-led growth and prosperity, particularly in areas currently dependent on the public sector. Other measures include:

the budget for apprenticeships is set to increase to over £1,400 million in the 2011-12 financial year with £799 million of this budget set to fund apprenticeships for 16 to 18-year-olds and the remaining £605 million for those aged 19 and over;

in the June 2010 Budget, the Government announced that new businesses that start up outside the Greater South East will benefit from a three-year scheme that will exempt them from up to £5,000 of employer national insurance contributions;

the Government will invest over £200 million to establish a network of elite technology and innovation centres to commercialise new and emerging technologies in areas where there are large global market opportunities in which the UK has a critical mass and capability to take advantage of. The first technology and innovation centre, which will focus on high value manufacturing, was announced on 17 March. The manufacturing technology centre in Ansty Park, owned by the universities of Birmingham, Nottingham and Loughborough, was one of seven centres that will come together to form the technology and innovation centre;

on 17 March, the Government also published a new streamlined Solutions for Business portfolio of 13 business support products and a good practice guide to help local enterprise partnerships provide support to business;

also on 17 March, the Government announced the first phase of the Local Government Resource Review. This review will consider the way in which local authorities are funded, with a view to giving local authorities greater financial autonomy and strengthening the incentives to support growth in the private sector and regeneration of local economies;

the Government have also announced that they are to review almost 22,000 business regulations as part of a drive to cut red tape and will exempt small firms from new domestic laws for three years. Other measures identified as part of the growth review into regulation include:

repealing the regulations extending the right to request flexible working to parents of 17-year-olds for all businesses, which was due start on 6 April;

not extending the right to request time off to train for firms with less than 250 people;

introducing more transparency into the Government's One-in, One-out rule by publishing the opinions of the Regulatory Policy Committee where they do not believe the evidence supports a new regulation; and

freeing small companies from unnecessary audit fees by matching the minimum required by EU directives.

The Government will also continue to provide targeted support for trade and investment, and refocus support for businesses through a national website and contact centre, a business coaching for growth programme and, with the banks and others, a mentoring service with at least 40,000 mentors. In addition, the banks have committed to invest up to £1.5 billion to provide equity funding to small and medium-sized enterprises through their Business Growth Fund.

### Employment

**Tom Blenkinsop:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to diversify the economy of areas with high proportions of public sector jobs. [47590]

**Mr Davey:** The Local Growth White Paper launched the regional growth fund the objectives of which are aimed at stimulating enterprise by providing support for projects and programmes with significant potential for economic growth, creating additional sustainable private sector employment and, in particular, supporting those areas and communities that are currently dependent on the public sector make the transition to sustainable private sector-led growth and prosperity.

In addition, the Chancellor has said that the Budget will introduce enterprise zones focused on reducing the barriers to businesses growing. More on the location of the zones will be announced in the Budget, but some of them may be in areas with high proportions of public sector jobs.

### European Southern Observatory

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the benefits to the UK of membership of the European Southern Observatory; and if he will make a statement. [47453]

**Mr Willetts:** The UK is represented in the European Southern Observatory (ESO) by the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC), who most recently assessed the benefits of membership prior to the 2010 spending review.

Through the UK's membership of ESO, the UK has access to world-class astronomy facilities, including the Very Large Telescope—the world's most advanced optical instrument.

ESO membership also allows the UK to participate in the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter array project (ALMA), a partnership of Europe, North America, and East Asia, to build an advanced telescope to study light from some of the coldest objects in the universe. Early observations are due to start later this year.

UK industry benefits from ESO contracts worth about £15 million per annum.

## Further Education

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many patent applications were *(a)* made by and *(b)* granted to each higher education institution in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [47431]

**Mr Davey:** Global data on the numbers of patent applications and granted patents obtained by higher education institutions are not readily accessible, especially in relation to those obtained by UK higher education institutions in other countries or through routes other than direct to the Intellectual Property Office.

However, the Intellectual Property Office is able to provide details of the numbers of published patent applications and granted patents which it has processed for UK higher education institutions for each of the previous five years 2006-10. There are 166 higher education institutions in the UK[1], of which 84 have had UK patent applications published since 2006.

A full table giving the numbers of published patent applications and granted patents processed by the Intellectual Property Office for each of the 84 institutions follows:

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[1] http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php/component/option,com_heicontacts/itemid,87

|  |  |  | *Number of published patents by year* |  |  |  |  |  | *Number of patents granted by year* |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Ranking* | *Higher education institution* | *Total number of published UK patent applications 2006-10* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* | *Total number granted 2006-10* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* |
| 1 | The University of Sheffield | 59 | 17 | 6 | 14 | 8 | 14 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 2 |
| 2 | The University of Cambridge (Cambridge Enterprise) | 40 | 11 | 13 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 15 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| 3 | Sheffield Hallam University | 26 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 4 | The University of Southampton | 23 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| 5 | King's College London | 21 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| 6 | The University of Oxford (Isis Innovation) | 20 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| 7 | De Monfort University | 19 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 |
| 8 | Cardiff University | 17 | 0 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| 9= | The University of Dundee | 15 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 9= | The University of Manchester | 15 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| 11= | Cranfield University | 14 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 11= | The University of Nottingham | 14 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 11= | The University of Plymouth | 14 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 14= | The University of Bolton | 13 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 14= | The University of Edinburgh | 13 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 16= | Imperial College (Imperial Innovations) | 12 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 16= | The University of Lancaster | 12 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

| | | | *Number of published patents by year* | | | | | | *Number of patents granted by year* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Ranking* | *Higher education institution* | *Total number of published UK patent applications 2006-10* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* | *Total number granted 2006-10* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* |
| 16= | The University of Warwick | 12 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| 19= | The University of Durham | 11 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 19= | The University of Wolverhampton | 11 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| 21= | The University of Aberdeen | 10 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 21= | The University of Surrey | 10 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| 23= | The University of Bristol | 9 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 23= | The University of Hull | 9 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 23= | The University of Kent | 9 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 23= | The University of Newcastle | 9 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 27 | The University of Glasgow | 8 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 28= | Brunel University | 7 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 28= | London South Bank University | 7 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 28= | The City University | 7 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 28= | The Nottingham Trent University | 7 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 28= | The University of Bradford | 7 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 28= | The University of Leeds | 7 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 28= | The University of York | 7 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 35= | Edinburgh Napier University | 6 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 35= | Loughborough University | 6 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 35= | The University of Exeter | 6 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 38= | The University of Bath | 5 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 38= | Aston University | 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 38= | Coventry University | 5 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 38= | The Open University | 5 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 38= | The University Of East Anglia | 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 38= | The University of Westminster | 5 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 44= | The University of Liverpool | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 44= | The University of Northumbria at Newcastle | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 44= | The University of St Andrews | 4 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 44= | The University of Sussex | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 44= | University of London | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

| | | | Number of published patents by year | | | | | | Number of patents granted by year | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ranking | Higher education institution | Total number of published UK patent applications 2006-10 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | Total number granted 2006-10 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
| 49= | Liverpool John Moores University | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 49= | Oxford Brookes University | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 49= | Teesside University | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 49= | The Manchester Metropolitan University | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 49= | The University of Brighton | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 49= | The University of Greenwich | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 49= | The University of Reading | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 49= | The University of Strathclyde | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 57= | Bangor University | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 57= | Bournemouth University | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 57= | Glasgow School of Art | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 57= | London Metropolitan University | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 57= | Middlesex University | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 57= | Royal College Of Art | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 57= | Royal Holloway and Bedford New College | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 57= | The Queen's University of Belfast | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 57= | The Robert Gordon University | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 57= | The Royal Veterinary College | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 57= | The University of Birmingham | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 57= | The University of Huddersfield | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 57= | The University of Keele | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 57= | University of Hertfordshire | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 57= | University of Wales Institute, Cardiff | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 72= | Aberystwyth University | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 72= | Anglia Ruskin University | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 72= | Birkbeck College | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 72= | Heriot-Watt University | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 72= | Imperial College | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | *Number of published patents by year* | | | | | | *Number of patents granted by year* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Ranking* | *Higher education institution* | *Total number of published UK patent applications 2006-10* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* | *Total number granted 2006-10* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* |
| 72= | London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 72= | Queen Mary and Westfield College | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 72= | Staffordshire University | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 72= | The University of Leicester | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 72= | The University of Northampton | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 72= | The University of Salford | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 72= | University of Abertay Dundee | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 72= | University of the Arts London | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Total | | 629 | 123 | 140 | 118 | 116 | 132 | 173 | 7 | 28 | 27 | 49 | 62 |

## Green Investment Bank

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to publish the design for the Green Investment Bank. [47714]

**Mr Prisk:** We will be making a detailed announcement in May.

## Higher Education: Admissions

**Margot James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what number and proportion of UCAS applicants were accepted and enrolled onto university courses with *(a)* less than 80 UCAS tariff points and *(b)* no UCAS tariff points in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08, (iii) 2008-09 and (iv) 2009-10. [47532]

**Mr Willetts:** The information is in the following table. Information on tariff score is only available for UK domiciled applicants.

*UK domiciled accepted applicants to courses via UCAS with unknown or no tariff points and 1-79 tariff points 2006/07 to 2009/10*

| | *No points or unknown* | | | *1-79 points* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Applicants* | *Accepted applicants* | *Percentage of applicants accepted* | *Applicants* | *Accepted applicants* | *Percentage of applicants accepted* |
| 2006/07 | 139,724 | 98,300 | 70.4 | 14,385 | 10,169 | 70.7 |
| 2007/08 | 161,384 | 117,449 | 72.8 | 21,473 | 15,598 | 72.6 |
| 2008/09 | 195,028 | 142,769 | 73.2 | 24,002 | 18,266 | 76.1 |
| 2009/10 | 211,015 | 145,694 | 69.0 | 28,249 | 21,455 | 75.9 |

*Source:*
UCAS

For the 2008/09 cycle applications formerly handled by the Nursing and Midwifery Admissions Service (NMAS) merged into the main UCAS system. Therefore, this year and 2009/10 are not directly comparable with previous years.

Applicants with no points will include those whose qualifications are not part of the UCAS tariff framework, and therefore do not carry a tariff score.

## Higher Education: Anti-Semitism

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many officials of each grade in his Department have policy responsibility for dealing with anti-Semitism in UK universities; what sources are available to them to obtain up-to-date information on anti-Semitism in UK universities; what recent reports he has received from officials in his Department on levels of anti-Semitism in UK universities; and if he will make a statement. [R] [47706]

**Mr Willetts:** There are four officials who cover policy on anti-Semitism as part of their remit—by grade these are two senior civil servants, one team leader and one higher executive officer. Policy officials have access to a range of information sources from both across government and external partners, including published reports. I have received information about the most recent Community Security Trust report on anti-Semitic incidents in the UK which reported a continued fall in incident numbers in UK universities, from 97 incidents in 2009 to 44 incidents in 2010 (there were 67 incidents in 2008). The 2009 figure includes 38 incidents, it is believed, committed by one perpetrator leading to a high overall total.

There is no place for racism of any form, including anti-Semitism, in higher education. Universities have access to a strong legislative framework and guidance to help them deal effectively with instances of intolerance, racism and harassment in their institutions. Government would expect them to vigorously tackle these issues when they arise and has supported institutions with key guidance on promoting good campus relations in the sector.

### Lasers: Children

**Graham Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the sale of laser pens to children. [47228]

**Mr Davey:** We have had no recent representations on the sale of laser pens to children.

### Loans

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made on implementing the recommendations of the review by the Office of Fair Trading on the high cost of credit in respect of payday loans; and what progress has been made on establishing an industry-wide statement of practice supporting greater transparency, clarity and simplicity in the short-term loans industry. [48328]

**Mr Davey:** This Department and HM Treasury are carrying out a joint review of consumer credit and personal insolvency that will look at all aspects of the consumer credit lifecycle from the decision to take out a loan through the lifetime of the loan. A call for evidence connected with the review has recently concluded and Government are considering the substantial number of submissions received. The review will also provide a framework for us to consider how best to take forward the recommendations from the recent Office for Fair Trading review of the high cost credit market. Government will make an announcement on next steps following the May local elections.

The Consumer Finance Association is responsible for the Payday Loan Forum which is considering whether to introduce a statement of practice in the payday loan industry.

### Graduates: Medicine and Science

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many medical students graduated in *(a)* England and *(b)* the West Midlands in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [47879]

**Mr Willetts:** The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) is shown in the table. Figures refer to graduates domiciled in England and the West Midlands Government office region. Figures for 2010/11 will be available in January 2012.

*Medicine[1] qualifiers[2] from England and West Midlands Government office region, UK higher education institutions, academic year 2005/06 to 2009/10*

| *Academic year* | *England* | *West Midlands* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005/06 | 7,690 | 630 |
| 2006/07 | 8,195 | 725 |
| 2007/08 | 8,585 | 750 |
| 2008/09 | 9,070 | 770 |
| 2009/10 | 9,060 | 770 |

[1] Covers pre-clinical and clinical medicine.

[2] Covers qualifiers from full-time and part-time undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

*Note:*

Figures are based on a qualifications obtained population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

*Source:*

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many medical students graduated from institutions in Greater London in each of the last five years; [47978]

(2) how many students in universities in *(a)* Greater London and *(b)* England graduated in science, technology, engineering and mathematics in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [48030]

**Mr Willetts:** The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) is shown in the tables. Figures for the 2010/11 academic year will be available in January 2012.

*Qualifiers[1] from science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects higher education institutions in London government office region and England academic years 2005/06 to 2009/10*

| *Academic year* | *Medicine and dentistry* | *of which; Medicine[2]* | *Subjects allied to medicine* | *Biological sciences* | *Veterinary science* | *Agricultural and related subjects* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *London Higher Education Institutions* | | | | | | |
| 2005/06 | 4,405 | 405 | 14,490 | 6,130 | 245 | 370 |
| 2006/07 | 4,340 | 435 | 15,375 | 6,515 | 260 | 405 |
| 2007/08 | 4,845 | 485 | 13,805 | 6,330 | 330 | 380 |
| 2008/09 | 5,270 | 605 | 13,295 | 7,255 | 380 | 460 |
| 2009/10 | 5,655 | 775 | 15,170 | 7,350 | 330 | 460 |
| *English Higher Education Institutions[3]* | | | | | | |
| 2005/06 | 10,300 | 1,140 | 71,670 | 32,630 | 645 | 3,770 |
| 2006/07 | 10,900 | 1,210 | 70,890 | 35,050 | 615 | 3,875 |
| 2007/08 | 11,845 | 1,430 | 70,190 | 37,150 | 665 | 3,955 |
| 2008/09 | 12,485 | 1,705 | 67,185 | 38,040 | 780 | 4,055 |

*Qualifiers[1] from science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects higher education institutions in London government office region and England academic years 2005/06 to 2009/10*

| *Academic year* | *Medicine and dentistry* | *of which: Medicine[2]* | *Subjects allied to medicine* | *Biological sciences* | *Veterinary science* | *Agricultural and related subjects* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2009/10 | 13,155 | 2,160 | 68,160 | 41,150 | 675 | 4,350 |

| *Academic year* | *Physical sciences* | *Mathematical sciences* | *Computer science* | *Engineering and technology* | *Architecture, building and planning* | *Total STEM* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *London Higher Education Institutions* | | | | | | |
| 2005/06 | 2,365 | 1,320 | 7,090 | 5,875 | 3,010 | 45,300 |
| 2006/07 | 2,345 | 1,435 | 6,370 | 6,130 | 3,440 | 46,610 |
| 2007/08 | 2,415 | 1,500 | 5,685 | 6,220 | 3,565 | 45,075 |
| 2008/09 | 2,430 | 1,690 | 5,510 | 6,615 | 3,910 | 46,815 |
| 2009/10 | 2,555 | 1,725 | 6,390 | 7,905 | 4,410 | 51,955 |
| *English Higher Education Institutions[3]* | | | | | | |
| 2005/06 | 17,795 | 7,150 | 28,905 | 30,595 | 12,590 | 216,055 |
| 2006/07 | 17,310 | 7,530 | 26,205 | 31,375 | 13,465 | 217,215 |
| 2007/08 | 17,845 | 7,755 | 24,580 | 32,525 | 15,250 | 221,765 |
| 2008/09 | 18,250 | 8,165 | 22,650 | 34,165 | 15,995 | 221,775 |
| 2009/10 | 19,240 | 8,685 | 24,515 | 38,475 | 18,495 | 236,900 |

[1] Covers qualifiers from all domiciles, levels of study and modes of study.
[2] Covers both clinical and pre-clinical medicine.
[3] Includes figures for London Higher Education Institutions.

*Note:*
Figures are based on a HESA qualifications obtained population and have been rounded to the nearest 5.
*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

## Overseas Trade

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of UK trade was conducted with *(a)* Brazil, *(b)* Russia, *(c)* India and *(d)* China in each financial year since 2001-02. [48332]

**Mr Prisk:** The following table shows shares of UK exports and imports of goods and services on a balance of payments basis. Trade statistics are usually presented on a calendar year basis.

*Percentage*

| | *Share of UK exports of goods and services going to:* | | | | *Share of UK imports of goods and services coming from:* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Brazil* | *Russia* | *India* | *China* | *Brazil* | *Russia* | *India* | *China* |
| 2001 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 2.0 |
| 2002 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 2.3 |
| 2003 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 2.8 |
| 2004 | 0.4 | 0.8 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 0.5 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 3.3 |
| 2005 | 0.4 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 1.1 | 3.7 |
| 2006 | 0.4 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 1.1 | 3.8 |
| 2007 | 0.4 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 1.5 | 0.6 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 4.7 |
| 2008 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 1.8 | 0.6 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 5.3 |
| 2009 | 0.6 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 2.0 | 0.7 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 6.1 |

*Note:*
Initial estimates for 2010 are due to be published on 29 March.
*Source:*
BIS from ONS UK Economic Accounts.

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which UK companies have made the largest contribution to the economy of *(a)* Brazil, *(b)* Russia, *(c)* India and *(d)* China in the latest period for which figures are available. [48340]

**Mr Prisk:** This information is not held centrally and could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value was in real terms of UK *(a)* exports to and *(b)* imports from (i) China, (ii) India, (iii) Brazil and (iv) Russia in each year since 2007. [48358]

**Mr Prisk:** The following table shows values at current prices for UK trade in goods and services on a balance of payments basis. There is not sufficient information available on price changes for trade with individual countries to be able to produce real terms values.

*£ million*

| | *UK exports of goods and services to:* | | | | *UK imports of goods and services from:* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *China* | *India* | *Brazil* | *Russia* | *China* | *India* | *Brazil* | *Russia* |
| 2007 | 5,460 | 4,634 | 1,563 | 5,126 | 19,744 | 5,660 | 2,338 | 6,171 |
| 2008 | 7,538 | 5,908 | 2,286 | 6,419 | 24,517 | 6,772 | 2,962 | 8,000 |
| 2009 | 7,772 | 4,605 | 2,439 | 4,180 | 25,491 | 6,541 | 2,852 | 5,887 |

*Note:*
Initial estimates for 2010 are due to be published on 29 March.
*Source:*
ONS UK Economic Accounts

## Overseas Trade: Brazil

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the monetary value in real terms of *(a)* investment in Brazil by UK businesses and *(b)* investment in the UK by Brazilian businesses in each financial year since 2001-02. [48360]

**Mr Prisk:** The Office for National Statistics publishes geographical data for foreign direct investment (FDI) in its annual Business Monitor MA4. Data are in current prices on a calendar year basis. The following table shows FDI flows to and from Brazil since 2001 and FDI stocks at 31 December 2009.

| | UK outward FDI to Brazil | UK inward FDI from Brazil |
|---|---|---|
| | | *£ million* |
| *Flows* | | |
| 2001 | 352 | [1]— |
| 2002 | 17 | [1]— |
| 2003 | 786 | 4 |
| 2004 | 386 | [1]— |
| 2005 | 48 | 6 |
| 2006 | 354 | [1]— |
| 2007 | 791 | 2 |
| 2008 | 832 | 1 |
| 2009 | 377 | [1]— |
| *Stocks* | | |
| End 2009 | 4,956 | 1 |

[1] Indicates disclosive data.

## Overseas Trade: India

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value in real terms was of *(a)* investment in India by UK businesses and *(b)* investment in the UK by Indian businesses in each year since 2001. [48409]

**Mr Prisk:** The Office for National Statistics publishes geographical data for foreign direct investment (FDI) in its annual Business Monitor MA4. Data are in current prices on a calendar year basis. The following table shows FDI flows to and from India since 2001 and FDI stocks at 31 December 2009.

| | UK outward FDI to India | UK inward FDI from India |
|---|---|---|
| | | *£ million* |
| *Flows* | | |
| 2001 | 135 | 33 |
| 2002 | 276 | 1 |
| 2003 | 193 | 7 |
| 2004 | 274 | -15 |
| 2005 | 616 | 138 |
| 2006 | 104 | 265 |
| 2007 | 650 | 151 |
| 2008 | 437 | 2,638 |
| 2009 | 747 | 126 |
| *Stocks* | | |
| End 2009 | 9,310 | 1,841 |

[1] Indicates disclosive data.

*Note:*

A minus sign indicates a net disinvestment abroad (i.e. a decrease in the amount due to the UK).

## Overseas Trade: Russia

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the monetary value in real terms of *(a)* investment in Russia by UK businesses and *(b)* investment in the UK by Russian businesses in each financial year since 2001-02. [48359]

**Mr Prisk:** The Office for National Statistics publishes geographical data for foreign direct investment (FDI) in its annual Business Monitor MA4. Data are in current prices on a calendar year basis. The following table shows FDI flows to and from Russia since 2001 and FDI stocks at 31 December 2009.

| | UK outward FDI to Russia | UK inward FDI from Russia |
|---|---|---|
| | | *£ million* |
| *Flows* | | |
| 2001 | 498 | 19 |
| 2002 | 108 | [1]— |
| 2003 | 2,030 | [1]— |
| 2004 | 1,831 | [1]— |
| 2005 | 349 | [1]— |
| 2006 | -13 | [1]— |
| 2007 | 1,334 | 332 |
| 2008 | 3,919 | 1,769 |
| 2009 | -285 | 45 |
| *Stocks* | | |
| End 2009 | 10,053 | 779 |

[1] Indicates disclosive data.

*Note:*

A minus sign indicates a net disinvestment abroad (i.e. a decrease in the amount due to the UK).

## Post Offices: Bank Services

**Sarah Newton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions the Post Office has had with retail banks on the date by which all holders of *(a)* personal and *(b)* business accounts at UK retail banks will be able to undertake cash and cheque withdrawal and deposit transactions at Post Office counters. [47815]

**Mr Davey:** This Government have made clear their ambition for all UK current accounts to be accessible through the post office network, and welcomes the agreement that has been reached between Post Office Ltd. and Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) to allow RBS and NatWest customers to access their current and business accounts at post offices.

There have been discussions between Post Office Ltd and those banks yet to agree to provide access to current and business accounts at post offices but the details of these discussions are commercially confidential.

## Prisons: Higher Education

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1054W, on prisoners: education, (1) what the cost to the public purse of providing Open University courses to prisoners was in each of the last five years; [46837]

(2) how many and what proportion of Open University courses prisoners have *(a)* completed and *(b)* passed in the latest period for which figures are available; [46838]

(3) what level of education or qualifications prisoners are required to hold before they are accepted on an Open University course; [46839]

(4) what Open University courses prisoners are undertaking; [46840]

(5) how many prisoners on Open University courses are not UK nationals; [46841]

(6) if he will consider the merits of amending the system for funding Open University courses for prisoners to bring it into line with funding, loan and tuition fee arrangements for university study by those not in prison; and if he will make a statement. [46842]

**Mr Hayes:** The cost to the public purse of prisoners studying with the Open University in prisons over the financial years 2005-06 to 2009-10 is set out in the following tables:

*Costs met from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (and predecessors) offender learning budget*

| *Financial year (April-March)* | *£000* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06[1] | 538 |
| 2006-07[1] | 491 |
| 2007-08[1] | 692 |
| 2008-09[1] | 827 |
| 2009-10[2] | 1,190 |

[1] England and Wales.
[2] England.

*Costs met from the Open University's Access to Learning Fund budget*

| *Financial year (August-July)* | *£000* |
|---|---|
| 2005/06[1] | 46 |
| 2006/07[1] | 322 |
| 2007/08[2] | 352 |
| 2008/09[2] | 379 |
| 2009/10[2] | 445 |

[1] England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
[2] England and Northern Ireland.

In prisons in England in the 2009-10 academic year 1,513 (69%) of prisoners completed and 1,293 (59%) passed the Open University course[1] for which they were studying. A typical course is worth 60 credit points and requires 16 hours of study each week over nine months. Students aiming for an Open Degree need to earn 300 credit points, the equivalent of five years of 60 credit point courses.

Nearly all Open University undergraduate courses have no formal entry requirements, either prior qualifications or experience: this allows people who have missed out on education to fulfil their potential and achieve a university-level qualification. The bar is set higher for prisoners, with prospective students who wish to secure funding through this Department required to demonstrate that they have achieved level 2 qualifications and to show evidence of serious commitment to learning for rehabilitation purposes. All applications are considered individually by the Prisoners' Education Trust which administers the scheme on the Department's behalf.

Prison Service Instruction 33/2010 requires the Prison Governor/Director (or their representative) to apply a sift procedure to all prisoners wishing to apply for an Open University course[1], regardless of the funding source. The sift ensures not only that applicants have been properly advised about the nature of study, and have the aptitude, ability and motivation to complete the course successfully, but also that the course the prisoner is applying for is appropriate in the context of his/her conviction.

Prisoners are currently undertaking the following Open University courses in English prisons:

20th century literature: texts and debates
A world of whose making? Analysing International developments
Advanced creative writing
Advanced French
Advanced Spanish
An Introduction to Business Studies
An Introduction to Health and Social Care
An Introduction to Law
Analysing data
Applications of Probability
Applying psychology
Approaching Literature
Archaeology, the science of investigation
Art and its histories
Beginners Chinese
Beginners French
Beginners German
Beginners Italian
Beginners Spanish
Beginners Welsh
Biological Psychology
Biology: Uniformity and Diversity
Business Functions in context
Business Organisations and Environments
Capacities for managing development
Challenging ideas in mental health
Chemical Change and environmental applications
Child development
Communication and Information technologies
Communication in health in care
Community safety, crime prevention and social control
Computers and processors
Counselling: exploring fear and sadness
Creative Writing
Crime and justice
Data Computing and Information
Death and dying
Design and designing
Designing Applications with visual basic
Developing concurrent distributed systems
Development context and practice
Diabetes care
Discourse Analysis
Discovering Mathematics
Discovering Psychology
Diverse perspectives on mental health
Doing economics: People, markets and policy
Economics and Economic change
Elements of Forensic science
Empire of the Microbes
Energy for a sustainable future
Engineering mechanics material design
Engineering small worlds
Engineering the future
English grammar in context
Enterprise and the environment
Environment
Environment: Journeys through a changing world
Environmental decision making
Environmental modelling monitoring and control
Environmental policy in an international context
Environmental science
Europe: Culture and Identities
Evolution
Exploring History: Medieval to Modern 1400-1900
Exploring Mathematics
Exploring psychology
Exploring science

Exploring the classical world
Exploring the English Language
Film and TV History
Financial Accounting
Fossils and the history of life
From Enlightenment to Romanticism
Fundamentals of interaction design
Geology
Graphs: network and design
How the Universe works
Human Biology
Human genetics and health issues
Innovation: Designing for a sustainable future
Institutional development
Intermediate French
Intermediate German
Intermediate Italian
Intermediate Spanish
International development
Introducing astronomy
Introducing environment
Introducing Environment (new version 15 credits)
Introducing religions
Introducing the social sciences
Introducing the Social Sciences Part 1
Introducing the Social Sciences Part 2
Introduction to counselling
Introduction to Sport Fitness and Management
Investigating entrepreneurial opportunities
Keeping ahead in information
Law: Agreements rights responsibilities
Law: Ownership and trusteeships
Law: the Individual and the state
Learning to change
Linear Statistical Modelling
Living in a globalised world
Living political ideas
Making sense of strategy
Making sense of the arts
Making sense of the arts (new version 15 credits)
Making social worlds
Managing care
Managing complexity: a systems approach
Managing in the workplace
Marketing and Society
Mathematical methods and models
Maths for Science
Medicine and Society in Europe 1500-1930
Molecules, medicines and drugs
Networked living: exploring information and communication
Number theory and Mathematical logic
Object Oriented programming with Java
Oceanography
Optimization
Personal and career development in engineering
Personal lives and social policy
Perspectives on complementary and alternative medicine
Philosophy and the Human Situation
Planets; an introduction
Plants and people
Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental decision making
Postgraduate foundation module in philosophy
Power dissent equality
Project Management
Promoting public health
Pure mathematics
Putting Java to work
Reading Classical Greek Language and literature
Reading Classical Latin
Relational Databases: theory and practice
Religion in History
Renaissance Art
Science in context
Science starts here
Shakespeare: text and performance
Signals and Perception
Social psychology
Software development with Java
Software Engineering with objects
Sport and exercise psychology
Starting with law
Starting with Maths
Starting with psychology
Starting with psychology (new version 15 credits)
The 19th Century Novel
The art of English
The Arts Past and present
The Greek Theatre
The molecular world
The physical world
The relativistic universe
The science of the mind: investigating mental health
The technology of music
Themes in philosophy
Topology
Total War and Social Change in Europe
Understanding children
Understanding cities
Understanding health
Understanding health (15 credits)
Understanding human nutrition
Understanding Law
Understanding Management
Understanding Music
Understanding Society
Understanding systems
Understanding the autism spectrum
Understanding the continents
Understanding weather
Upper Intermediate Spanish
Using Mathematics
Voices and Texts
Waves diffusion and variational principles
Welfare crime and society
Words and Music
Working and Learning in Sport and Fitness
Working for Health
You and your money: personal finance in context

The Open University's data on nationality of current prisoner students are incomplete. However, in the financial year 2010-11, the Prisoners' Education Trust has approved funding for three foreign national prisoners, and refused one. Foreign nationals are only funded if they make an exceptionally strong application, taking into account their previous employment history and their commitment to self-reform and avoidance of further crime. They must also have sufficient time to complete the course inside custody.

The Government continue to believe that higher education is an important learning progression route for some prisoners. A small number of prisoners are able to study higher education full-time as they approach the end of their sentences while released on temporary licence. They are expected to meet their own higher education costs, supported by access to fee loans in exactly the same way as other higher education students. Maintenance loans are not available for prisoners.

Mainstream students studying part-time higher education courses are supported through grant arrangements: prisoners are not eligible for those grants. Where prisoners have the means to support their own part-time higher education study, they are expected to do so. Where a prisoner cannot afford to support their own learning, we make arrangements to support that learning as described in the answer of 8 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1054W, on prisoners' education. As that earlier answer noted, we are considering how higher education for prisoners should be funded as part of the Government's review of offender learning. We expect that review to be published shortly.

### Regional Growth Fund

**Julian Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the method used by his Department to estimate the number of public sector jobs for the purposes of the Regional Growth Fund includes members of the armed services. [47991]

**Mr Prisk:** One of a range of metrics used to assess the locality of bids to the Regional Growth Fund was the share of employee jobs in the public sector from the Office for National Statistics Annual Business Inquiry (ABI). Employee jobs provide a count of jobs not people/employment and do not cover self-employed jobs, HM forces and Government-supported trainees. Public sector employee jobs are those in: public corporations/nationalised bodies, central Government and local authority. The private sector is defined as: company, sole proprietor, partnership and non-profit body or mutual association. Full information on these data can be found on the BIS website:

http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ppse/index.asp

### Repayable Launch Investment

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department's budget includes an allocation of funds for Repayable Launch Investment. [47857]

**Mr Prisk:** The Department has allocated funding to meet its contractual commitments under existing Repayable Launch Investment agreements.

In common with the policy of previous Governments there is no specific allocation for new Repayable Launch Investment within departmental budgets.

### Science: Females

**Valerie Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to address the level of attrition between education and employment for women in *(a)* engineering, *(b)* science and *(c)* other technology disciplines. [48023]

**Mr Willetts:** We will encourage diversity in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) work force by embedding and mainstreaming best practice and lessons learnt, from the past few years, into the programmes we fund. We will also ask our partners and stakeholders to collaborate with us on this, and share their own valuable experiences, and develop their own approaches. This aligns with the wider work of the coalition to promote inclusive workplaces.

We have asked the Royal Academy of Engineering, exercising its significant influence over professional institutions, industry and others, to develop a diversity programme in engineering, and also to work with science partners to reach the wider STEM work force in this activity.

### Squatting

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many buildings on his Department's estate were occupied by squatters in each year between 2006 and 2010; and on how many occasions his Department sought interim possession orders to remove squatters from such buildings in each of those years. [47618]

**Mr Davey:** None of the Department's buildings have been occupied by squatters during the years 2006 to 2010.

### Telephone Services

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding was allocated to the Pay and Work Rights helpline in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [47435]

**Mr Davey:** The Pay and Work Rights helpline was established in May 2009, and formally launched in September 2009. Actual expenditure on running the helpline in 2009/10 was £1,166,000—against an allocation of £1,200,000. This included one off development costs associated with establishing the service. Expenditure for 2010/11 is expected to be just under £850,000 against an allocation of £900,000.

The Pay and Work Rights helpline provides a valuable single point of contact for workers and employers seeking advice or wanting to report abuses of the national minimum wage, the agricultural minimum wage, the 48 hour average working week, employment agency standards and gangmaster licensing. In the 18 months

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[1] In the Open University context, a course is a module of study that can count towards a qualification.

since its launch, the helpline has received more than 140,000 calls, and referred 4,800 complaints and pieces of intelligence about potential abuses to the five enforcement bodies who stand behind the helpline.

### Vocational Guidance

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he will announce the proposed division in funding between the allocations of his Department and the Department for Education to the proposed the All-Age Careers Service in 2011-12. [47370]

**Mr Hayes** *[holding answer 17 March 2011]:* We will make an announcement shortly regarding the Government's approach to careers advice policy.

### Voluntary Work and Charitable Donations

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has a policy to encourage its employees to *(a)* volunteer and *(b)* donate via payroll giving. [43230]

**Mr Davey:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) encourages staff to take part in volunteering opportunities by giving paid time off.

BIS operates a 'Give as you Earn' policy, which allows staff to donate to charities of their choice directly from their monthly salary.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Vietnam: Overseas Aid

**Ms Harman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what discussions he had with the Government of Vietnam on his Department's bilateral aid to that country prior to deciding to end such bilateral aid; [47520]

(2) what consultation he has had with *(a)* multilateral organisations active in and *(b)* other bilateral donors to Vietnam on the ending of his Department's bilateral aid programme to Vietnam; and on what date each such consultation took place; [47521]

(3) in which year he expects his Department's bilateral aid programme to Vietnam to close; and what arrangements have been made for phasing the closure over a period of time. [47522]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The bilateral aid relationship between Vietnam and the UK is based on a 10-year Development Partnership Arrangement (DPA, 2006-16). Under the UK Bilateral Aid Review (BAR) process the decision was taken to end bilateral aid at the end of this DPA in 2016. The Department for International Development (DFID) will continue to support Vietnam to meet the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets in primary education, sanitation, and HIV and AIDS, as well as focusing support on the key issues of climate change, governance and accountability, and wealth creation.

DFID has had regular discussions with the Government of Vietnam throughout this process, including a visit by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State in June 2010. The Government of Vietnam welcomed the UK Government's decision positively, declaring our aid as highly effective. DFID also have regular dialogues with donor agencies through a number of important forums such as the Government-Donor Consultative Group meeting (most recently in December 2010), the EU Development Counsellors meeting, and the Aid Effectiveness Forum.

We will ensure the sustainability of our interventions beyond DFID's presence in Vietnam through the high level UK-Vietnam Strategic Partnership signed in September 2010.

The BAR also considered multilateral aid received by individual countries. Vietnam will continue to benefit from UK funding provided through the multilateral development organisations. This amounted to £65.5 million in 2008-09.

UK assistance accounted for 2.56% of the net Official Development Assistance that Vietnam received in the 2009 calendar year, the latest period for which figures are available for comparison purposes. UK support to Vietnam over this period was just over £60 million (equivalent to about $96 million), of which £4 million was debt relief.

### Cameroon: Overseas Aid

**Ms Harman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) in which year his Department's bilateral aid programme in Cameroon will be closed; and what arrangements he has made for phasing in the closure of that programme; [47563]

(2) what discussions he held with *(a)* the government of Cameroon, *(b)* multilateral organisations and *(c)* other bilateral donors to that country prior to his decision on the future of the bilateral aid programme, and on what dates; and what proportion of the official development assistance received by Cameroon his Department's bilateral aid comprised in the latest period for which figures are available. [47644]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Bilateral Aid Review (BAR) considered which countries should receive UK bilateral aid, how much they should receive and which countries should stop receiving this aid. The decision taken in 2008 to close the UK's bilateral programme in Cameroon was confirmed as part of the BAR process. We are continuing to discuss with the World Bank and the Government of Cameroon exit arrangements to help sustain and extend improvements in Cameroon's forest sector management once our bilateral programme has ended. We have extended the forest governance facility until 30 September 2011 to allow remaining programme activities to be completed. We will provide funding to the World Bank in Cameroon for a senior forestry adviser until the end of 2012 to provide technical advice and policy guidance to the Government of Cameroon.

The BAR also considered multilateral aid received by individual countries. Cameroon will continue to benefit from UK funding provided through the multilateral development organisations. This amounted to £16 million in 2008-09.

In 2009, Cameroon received $649 million in net official development assistance. UK bilateral aid in that year was £1.44 million (approximately $2.07 million)—less than 1% of the total.

### Niger: Overseas Aid

**Ms Harman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) in which year his Department's bilateral aid programme with Niger will close; what arrangements he has made for phasing in the closure of that programme; what discussions he had with *(a)* the government of Niger, *(b)* multilateral organisations and *(c)* other bilateral donors to that country prior to his decision on the future of the programme; and on what dates; [47640]

(2) what proportion of the official development assistance received by Niger his Department's bilateral aid comprised in the latest period for which figures are available. [48027]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Bilateral Aid Review (BAR) considered which countries should receive UK bilateral aid, how much they should receive and which countries should stop receiving this aid. The Department for International Development's (DFID's) bilateral programme in Niger consisted of only one multi-donor education project, funded through the French Development Agency, which will end on 31 March 2011. The Bilateral Aid Review found that scaling up our bilateral programme in Niger, where we have no existing office, would not be cost-effective and other donors are better placed to continue working bilaterally in Niger. Discussions with the Nigerian Government and other multilateral and bilateral partners were conducted through the delegated arrangement with France. As we have done in the past, DFID remains ready to provide humanitarian assistance to Niger if justified.

The BAR also considered multilateral aid received by individual countries. Niger will continue to benefit from UK funding provided through the multilateral development organisations. This amounted to £29.5 million in 2008-09.

In 2009, Niger received $470 million in net official development assistance (ODA). UK bilateral aid comprised £3.96 million (approximately $5.6 million), or 1.2% of this total.

### Lesotho: Overseas Aid

**Ms Harman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in which year his Department's bilateral aid programme with Lesotho will close; what arrangements he has made for phasing in the closure of that programme; what discussions he held with *(a)* the government of Lesotho, *(b)* multilateral organisations and *(c)* other bilateral donors to that country prior to his decision on the future of the programme, and on what dates; and what proportion of the official development assistance received by Lesotho his Department's bilateral aid comprised in the latest period for which figures are available. [47641]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The decision to close the Department for International Development's (DFID's) bilateral aid programme with Lesotho on 31 August 2011 was taken under the Bilateral Aid Review (BAR). DFID's office in Lesotho will close on 31 March 2011. All projects will come to an end as planned—none will be closed early. DFID's bilateral programme represents a small fraction of Lesotho's overall aid. Our experience is that such small programmes often struggle to achieve sufficient impact, Lesotho is one of the highest per capita aid recipients in Africa. Even without the DFID bilateral programme, Lesotho will continue to receive more aid per person than most African countries, including some which are far poorer in income terms.

Senior DFID officials discussed these plans with the Government of Lesotho in October 2010 and February 2011. Future funding plans of other donors were assessed prior to making our decision.

The BAR also considered multilateral aid received by individual countries. Lesotho will continue to benefit from UK funding provided through the multilateral development organisations. This amounted to £3.6 million in 2008-09.

In 2009-10 DFID's bilateral programme to Lesotho totalled £3.2 million. This represented 4% of the £79 million official development assistance (ODA) received by Lesotho in 2009. Total ODA to Lesotho has jumped since 2009—with local sources estimating disbursement of over £150 million during 2010.

### Gambia: Overseas Aid

**Ms Harman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in which year his Department's bilateral aid programme with Gambia will close; what arrangements he has made for phasing in the closure of that programme; what discussions he held with *(a)* the government of Gambia, *(b)* multilateral organisations and *(c)* other bilateral donors to that country prior to his decision on the future of the programme, and on what dates; and what proportion of the official development assistance received by Gambia his Department's bilateral aid comprised in the latest period for which figures are available. [47642]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Bilateral Aid Review (BAR) considered which countries should receive UK bilateral aid, how much they should receive and which countries should stop receiving this aid. The decision taken in 2008 to close the UK's bilateral programme in The Gambia was confirmed as part of the BAR process. Since 2008 the UK Government have worked closely with the Government of Gambia and other donors to agree a responsible exit strategy to ensure that gains made with DFID bilateral assistance are sustained and extended into the future, including funding for a post in the European Commission office in Banjul. During the course of the review I met the Gambia Minister of Finance.

The BAR also considered multilateral aid received by individual countries. Gambia will continue to benefit from UK funding provided through the multilateral development organisations. This amounted to £0.9 million in 2008-09. In 2009, Gambia received $126 million in net Official Development Assistance. UK bilateral aid comprised £2.39 million (approximately $3.4 million) or 2.7% of the total.

### Cambodia: Overseas Aid

**Ms Harman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in which year his Department's bilateral aid programme with Cambodia will close; what arrangements he has made for phasing in the closure of that programme; what discussions he held with *(a)* the government of Cambodia, *(b)* multilateral organisations and *(c)* other bilateral donors to that country prior to his decision on the future of the programme, and on what dates; and what proportion of the official development assistance received by Cambodia his Department's bilateral aid comprised in the latest period for which figures are available. [47643]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** A decision was made in 2009 to phase out the Department for International Development's (DFID) direct support to Cambodia. This was in keeping with the original plan of having an in-country presence for 10 years, and confirmed by the Bilateral Aid Review. The DFID office formally closed on 31 January 2011.

DFID agreed to honour all existing programme commitments and to exit responsibly from sectors in which we were involved. Three projects will continue beyond the life of the office with the final project scheduled to close on 31 December 2013. Management of remaining programmes has been transferred to DFID Vietnam.

DFID's bilateral spend in Cambodia for financial year 2010-11 stands at £14,555,299. This does not reflect any funding through central sources such as Civil Society Challenge Funds or Regional Research Grants etc.

### Burundi: Overseas Aid

**Ms Harman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in which year his Department's bilateral aid programme with Burundi will close; what arrangements he has made for phasing in the closure of that programme; what discussions he held with *(a)* the government of Burundi, *(b)* multilateral organisations and *(c)* other bilateral donors to that country prior to his decision on the future of the programme, and on what dates; and what proportion of the official development assistance received by Burundi his Department's bilateral aid comprised in the latest period for which figures are available. [47645]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Department for International Development's (DFID's) bilateral aid programme in Burundi will close in March 2012. This decision was taken under the Bilateral Aid Review (BAR), which concluded that better value for money and results could be delivered through our larger existing programmes and regional support.

DFID Burundi has been working in four sectors—health, education, justice and regional integration. DFID is in discussions with the European Union (EU) to transfer programming in the health sector. The bulk of DFID's education funding is through a joint-donor basket fund with Belgium and France, which will continue following DFID's departure. The majority of funding for the justice sector is to an EU programme that will also continue. From 2012, DFID will concentrate exclusively on supporting Burundi's integration into the East African Community through regional funding, as we believe this will be a critical factor in the country's medium term growth. All remaining programmes will be coming to an end during the financial year 2011-12. No programmes will be closed early.

Discussions about the closure of the bilateral programme were held with the Government of Burundi and other partners in November 2010. Earlier discussions about the likelihood and implications of closure were held with the two major bilateral donors in Burundi—the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Belgian embassy—in June 2010.

The BAR also considered multilateral aid received by individual countries. Burundi will continue to benefit from UK funding provided through the multilateral development organisations. This amounted to £12.7 million in 2008-09.

For the calendar year 2009, the most recent year for which figures are available, DFID support comprised 2.6% of total donor aid to Burundi.

### Indonesia: Overseas Aid

**Ms Harman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in which year his Department's bilateral aid programme with Indonesia will close; what arrangements he has made for phasing in the closure of that programme; what discussions he held with *(a)* the government of Indonesia, *(b)* multilateral organisations and *(c)* other bilateral donors to that country prior to his decision on the future of the programme, and on what dates; and what proportion of the official development assistance received by Indonesia his Department's bilateral aid comprised in the latest period for which figures are available. [47646]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** Indonesia is one of the world's fastest growing emerging economies, and over the next period will transition from a traditional aid relationship with the UK towards a new type of partnership. Under the Bilateral Aid Review, the Government decided to end the Department for International Development's (DFID's) bilateral aid programme in Indonesia in March 2015. DFID programme funds to Indonesia will focus on climate change and decline over the final three years in a phased approach to closure.

DFID officials consulted with the Vice-Minister of the Indonesian Ministry for Development Planning in November 2010 on DFID's transition to a focus on climate change and to programme closure. The Government consulted on closure with representatives in Indonesia of the United Nations and of Governments of Australia, Norway and Holland during January and February 2011.

The BAR also considered multilateral aid received by individual countries. Indonesia will continue to benefit from UK funding provided through the multilateral development organisations. This amounted to £24.5 million in 2008-09.

The 2010 Indonesia Country Report for the Paris Declaration for Aid Effectiveness shows DFID programme funds contributed 0.4% of all bilateral aid to Indonesia in 2010.

### Vietnam: Overseas Aid

**Ms Harman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of the official development assistance received by Vietnam his Department's bilateral aid comprised in the latest period for which figures are available. [48028]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The latest period for which figures are available for comparison purposes is the 2009 calendar year. UK support to Vietnam over this period was just over £60 million (equivalent to about $96 million), of which £4 million was debt relief. UK assistance accounted for 2.56% of the net official development assistance that Vietnam received.

### Somalia: Overseas Aid

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to his Department's press release of 3 February 2011, on aid to Somalia, by what means his Department plans to help up to 45,000 people into jobs in that country. [47721]

**Mr O'Brien:** The Department for International Development will work with UN agencies, the World Bank and other development partners to create an estimated 45,000 long-term jobs in Somalia, over the next four years. The programme will support people working in the livestock, fisheries and agriculture sectors across Somalia. The programme will work with producers and service providers, and strengthen links between producers and local and international markets. It will also aim to improve the investment climate, initially in Somaliland. This will include helping to improve the financial sector, port management, and the way government engages with the private sector, including mobilising funds to invest in fisheries and other sectors.

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to his Department's press release of 3 February 2011, on aid to Somalia, with which organisations his Department plans to work to deliver aid to that country. [47723]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Department for International Development (DFID) will initially channel the majority of its funds for Somalia, from 2011-15, through the United Nations (UN), the International Committee of the Red Cross and through international non-governmental organisations (NGOs). We also expect to support Somali NGOs through international NGOs.

Our UN partners will include the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA). We will also work with the World Bank.

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to his Department's press release of 3 February 2011, on aid to Somalia, what proportion of the proposed increase in his Department's aid for Somalia he estimates will be spent in *(a)* Somaliland, *(b)* Puntland and *(c)* southern Somalia. [47724]

**Mr O'Brien:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has allocated £44 million to Somalia for 2011-12 and £46 million for 2012-13. Of this £90 million approximately 35% will go to Somaliland, 11% to Puntland and 54% to South-Central Somalia.

All allocations for 2013-15 will depend on results. We have provisionally allocated £80 million per year for 2013-14 and 2014-15. Of the provisional total allocation of £250 million for the period 2011-15, we plan to spend 40% in Somaliland. The remaining funds will be allocated to other parts of Somalia depending on needs, opportunities and progress.

### Somalia: Politics and Government

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on the merits of the recognition of Somaliland as an independent state. [47722]

**Mr O'Brien:** The Secretary of State for International Development is aware of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs' views from discussions with the Department for International Development before the Secretary of State's visit to Somaliland in January. The UK, like the rest of the international community, does not recognise Somaliland as an independent state. While we keep this policy under review, we continue to believe that recognition of any new arrangement should begin in the region, ideally with the Somali people themselves determining their future relationship.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Wednesday 23 March 2011*

## WALES

### Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department has spent on *(a)* salaries and *(b)* pension entitlements for special advisers in the financial year 2010-11 to date. [46568]

**Mr David Jones:** Information is available on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

The estimated pay bill includes pension costs, and details of pension arrangements are set out in the "Model contract for Special Advisers".

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Economic Situation

12. **Christopher Pincher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with Ministers in the Northern Ireland Executive on economic development in Northern Ireland. [47503]

**Mr Paterson:** I have had extensive discussions with the First and Deputy First Ministers, the Finance Minister and the Enterprise Minister on proposals to develop and rebalance the Northern Ireland economy.

The consultation paper the Government publishes tomorrow will be a genuine team effort. I pay tribute to the work of Northern Ireland Executive Ministers on these crucial proposals.

13. **Julian Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on measures to promote economic growth in Northern Ireland. [47504]

**Mr Paterson:** I have had intensive discussions with the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, my hon. Friend the Member for South West Hertfordshire (Mr Gauke), on consultation proposals to rebalance the Northern Ireland economy and promote investment.

I pay tribute to the excellent work undertaken by my ministerial colleagues in the Treasury on these crucial proposals to boost growth.

### Corporation Tax

14. **Nic Dakin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on corporation tax policy in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [47505]

**Mr Paterson:** I have had extensive discussions with ministerial colleagues in the Treasury on measures to rebalance the Northern Ireland economy.

The Government consultation paper published tomorrow will outline the potential for the devolved Administration to be given powers to reduce the corporation tax rate in Northern Ireland.

### Royal Irish Regiment and Irish Guards

15. **Mr Donaldson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he has had discussions with the Secretary of State for Defence on steps to mark the return to Northern Ireland of the Royal Irish Regiment and the Irish Guards from operational deployment in Afghanistan. [47506]

**Mr Paterson:** I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the exceptional efforts and sacrifices of the Royal Irish Regiment and Irish Guards in Afghanistan, in particular Lance Corporal Stephen McKee from 1st Battalion the Royal Irish Regiment who was killed on 9 March 2011.

I am aware that the Ministry of Defence are in the early planning stages for several events both in Northern Ireland and in GB and will give any such events my full support.

### Credit Unions: Northern Ireland

**Naomi Long:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the *(a)* Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and *(b)* Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment in the Northern Ireland Executive on the (i) funding of credit unions in Northern Ireland and (ii) allocation of funding through the Growth Fund. [48165]

**Mr Paterson:** As the subject matter of the Credit Unions (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 is a devolved matter I have not held any such discussions to date, although I would be prepared to raise these matters with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith), if asked to do so by the Northern Ireland Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment.

Social Security is also a devolved matter in Northern Ireland. The Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF) which ends in March 2011 pays for the Department for Work and Pensions Growth Fund. The Northern Ireland Executive has already received consequentials under the Barnett formula in respect of the FIF.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Animal Welfare: Finance

**Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her Department's funding allocation for animal health is for each of the next four financial years. [44831]

**Mr Paice:** The SR10 programme funding allocation for animal health and welfare for the next four financial years is as follows:

| | *Allocation (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2011-12 | 213 |
| 2012-13 | 198 |
| 2013-14 | 182 |
| 2014-15 | 167 |

## Biodiversity

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate she has made of the number of globally-threatened species present in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England and *(c)* the UK Overseas Territories in each of the last five years. [45991]

**Richard Benyon:** Yearly estimates of globally threatened species present in the UK, England and the UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) are not undertaken but the best available information is that there are:

*(a)* UK: 194 (2005-10)

*(b)* England: 54 (2010)

*(c)* UKOTs: 517 (2008).

## Dairy Farming

**Dan Byles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the financial effects on dairy farmers of the implementation of the provisions of the European Clean Water Directive in respect of the storage of slurry. [47632]

**Richard Benyon:** The financial effect on the dairy sector of the need to construct slurry storage under the Nitrates Pollution Prevention Regulations 2008 was estimated at that time to be between £15.9 million and £20.7 million. The nitrates directive (a key measure to implement the water framework directive) is implemented in England by the nitrates pollution prevention regulations.

As the total area of land eventually designated as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones comprises 62% of England, rather than the 70% on which the 2008 estimates were based, the actual financial impact is likely to have been less than suggested above.

The estimate is for England only, as this is the extent of the coverage of the regulations.

## Departmental Public Bodies

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10WS, on the public bodies reform programme, what estimate she has made of the savings to her Department net of costs incurred in the assumption of additional departmental responsibilities to accrue from *(a)* the abolition of 24 public bodies within her Department's area of responsibility and *(b)* the change in function of seven such bodies. [48142]

**Richard Benyon** *[holding answer 21 March 2011]:* On 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 9WS, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Maude) issued a written ministerial statement updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that Departments estimate that cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

DEFRA anticipates net planned administrative savings from structural reforms of our public bodies over the spending review period of approximately £18.58 million. In addition to this, we anticipate that cumulative planned administrative reductions from all DEFRA's public bodies will be approximately £250.93 million over the spending review period in real terms.

DEFRA published spending review allocations for its arm's length bodies on our external website on 20 December 2010.

## Plantations: Carlisle

**John Stevenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for the future of High Stand Plantation in Carlisle constituency. [47885]

**Mr Paice:** High Stand Plantation is owned by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and placed at the disposal of the Forestry Commissioners under section (3)1 of the Forestry Act 1967. It is being managed in accordance with an approved forest design plan which sets out the long-term vision for the wood, including detailed felling and restocking plans for at least a 10-year period.

## Severn Estuary: Land

**Mr Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many permissions have been given by the Environment Agency for the conversion of land on the Severn Estuary into wetland in each of the last five years; to whom each such permission was given; on what date; and if she will make a statement. [47557]

**Richard Benyon:** Flood defence consent is not required for the conversion of land into wetland, unless there is a structure involved or works are proposed within eight metres of the landward toe of a sea defence. Conversion of land to wetland would be subject to the planning process administered by the local planning authority.

The following table provides details of the two flood defence consents for structures that have been issued where land has been converted to wetland habitat through managed realignment or compensatory works.

| *Flood defence consent* | *Description* | *Date granted* | *Granted to* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Congresbury Tidal Embankment | Realignment of tidal defence and creation of marginal habitat | 30 March 2009 | Environment Agency |
| Dowlais Farm Wetland Project, Clevedon | Fencing in conjunction with creating new ditches and ponds | 9 March 2006 | North Somerset Council |

## ATTORNEY-GENERAL

### Departmental Procurement

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Attorney-General in how many procurement projects with a monetary value greater than *(a)* £10 million, *(b)* £50 million and *(c)* £100 million (i) the Law Officers' Departments and (ii) the agency for which he is responsible were engaged in the latest period for which figures are available. [45543]

**The Solicitor-General:** During financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11 only one new procurement project has been undertaken by the Law Officers' Departments which involved costs over £10 million.

In October 2009, the CPS signed a three year extension of its ongoing contract with Information and Communications Technology (ICT) suppliers Logica and Global Crossing to supply information technology and telecommunications services until 2015. The cost of this contract extension was £125 million.

### Departmental Rail Travel

**Mr Godsiff:** To ask the Attorney-General how many and what proportion of civil servants in the Law Officers' Departments are entitled to travel first class by rail within the UK. [46777]

**The Attorney-General:** Civil servants employed by the Law Officers Departments have limited entitlement to travel by first class rail within the UK. It is expected that all travel should be undertaken by the most efficient means to ensure value for money.

However, it is accepted that in some exceptional circumstances a first class ticket may cost less than standard class or represent better value for money, or there may be a genuine business, security or disability need. In such rare instances, first class travel would only be permitted following approval by a senior manager.

### Serious Fraud Office

**Catherine McKinnell:** To ask the Attorney-General what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on proposals to separate the investigation and prosecution functions of the Serious Fraud Office; and if he will make a statement. [47340]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Attorney-General and I regularly have wide-ranging discussions with the Secretary of State for the Home Department and with Home Office Ministers to consider criminal justice matters. These discussions cover, among other things, the coalition Government's commitment to tackle white collar crime, including those investigated and prosecuted by the Serious Fraud Office, as seriously as other crime.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Affordable Housing

**Nicola Blackwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to increase the availability of affordable housing *(a)* in Oxford and *(b)* nationally. [47959]

**Grant Shapps:** In England we are investing nearly £4.5 billion in new affordable housing to help deliver up to 150,000 affordable homes. We expect providers of affordable housing and local authorities to work closely to identify the level of provision needed in their areas.

The location, number and availability of affordable housing will be dependent on agreements between providers and the Homes and Communities Agency, in consultation with local authorities.

### Bowling: Facilities

**John Woodcock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received on the safeguarding of facilities for crown green and lawn bowling. [48524]

**Robert Neill:** Since May 2010, my Department has received one representation relating to safeguarding a bowling green. In the light of a proposal to sell the land by its owners, a committee member of a bowling club requested comments on protection of the green through planning policy and on the Localism Bill's community right to buy provisions.

### Community Development

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether the community right to build programme will include *(a)* renovations and *(b)* continuations of previously halted building projects; [47895]

(2) when he expects the community right to build programme to begin operation. [47896]

**Grant Shapps:** The community right to build proposals are contained in the Localism Bill introduced to Parliament on 13 December 2010. The Bill's enactment will give certain community organisations in rural and urban areas the right to bring forward a community right to build order allowing certain types of small scale development on a specific site to take place providing it meets prescribed criteria, has been subject to independent testing and has received majority support in a community referendum. Any benefits generated from developments under the community right to build will stay within the community and be used for the community's benefit. It will be for communities to identify suitable land, sources of finance and secure support for their proposals. We hope to achieve Royal Assent on the Localism Bill as soon as parliamentary time allows.

Where renovations or the continuation of projects require planning permission, it would, in principle, be possible for community right to build orders to give permission for such projects, subject to the proposals meeting the requirements set out in the Bill and receiving a positive vote at referendum.

### Disabled Facilities Grants

**Mr Raynsford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the potential demand for disabled facilities grants. [47985]

**Andrew Stunell:** The Department for Communities and Local Government has commissioned the Building Research Establishment in 2009 to research and evaluate the potential demand for Disabled Facilities Grants. Details of the research are available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/dfgallocationmethodology

### First-time Buyers

**Nicola Blackwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to help first-time home buyers. [47958]

**Grant Shapps:** The Government are committed to helping those who aspire to own their own home. At Budget we announced £210 million to support a new FirstBuy: HomeBuy scheme in England. Co-funded with house builders FirstBuy, it will help over 10,000 first-time buyers who are struggling to purchase a home because of large deposit requirements to buy a newly built home over the next two years.

I have also recently held a summit bringing together key players in the housing industry calling on them to work more closely together to help aspiring first-time buyers.

I am pleased to see that progress has been made and those on the front line of building homes and providing mortgages are stepping up their efforts to help aspiring first-time buyers get a foot on the ladder by developing new products that meet the challenges faced by first-time buyers.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Departmental Hospitality

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on the contents of Ministerial drinks cabinets since 12 May 2010. [48405]

**John Penrose:** There are no ministerial drinks cabinets in the Department.

### Arts Council England

**Julian Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much funding Arts Council England allocated per head of population in the Skipton and Ripon constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [47898]

**Mr Vaizey:** Arts Council England estimates a spend of £2.96 per head in Skipton and Ripon during 2009-10.

Additionally, a number of organisations funded by the Arts Council tour their work in the constituency: their funding is not represented in this total.

**Julian Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much funding Arts Council England allocated per head of population in the *(a)* Craven local authority area, *(b)* Harrogate local authority area and *(c)* North Yorkshire county council authority area in the latest period for which figures are available. [47899]

**Mr Vaizey:** Arts Council England estimates spend in 2009-10 at £4.01 per head in Craven, £1.95 per head in Harrogate and £6.09 per head in North Yorkshire.

Additionally, a number of organisations funded by the Arts Council tour their work in the constituency, though their funding is not represented in the figure above.

### Bowling

**John Woodcock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has made an estimate of the number of *(a)* crown green bowling and *(b)* lawn bowling facilities that have closed in England in each of the last five years. [48525]

**Hugh Robertson:** Neither the Department nor Sport England holds the information requested.

### Digital Broadcasting: North Yorkshire

**Julian Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department allocated to promoting digital television switchover in North Yorkshire in the latest period for which figures are available. [47900]

**Mr Vaizey:** Digital UK, the independent, not-for-profit company leading the implementation of the digital TV switchover across the UK, is responsible for co-ordinating the process and informing viewers about switchover—when it is happening in their area and what they need to do in order to be ready.

Digital UK's communication budget is funded from a ring-fenced proportion of the BBC licence fee. The cost of the core information campaign is typically £3.80 per household. This includes advertising, roadshows, community outreach, a contact centre and website. There are estimated to be around 2.6 million households in the Yorkshire TV region.

Latest research carried out for Digital UK in the Yorkshire TV region shows that awareness of switchover was measured at 94% and three quarters of households (74%) are watching digital TV on all their sets.

### Humanitarian Assistance

**Tessa Jowell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department budgeted for humanitarian assistance to people in the UK affected by major incidents in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [48073]

**John Penrose:** The Humanitarian Assistance Unit budget was £500,000 in each of the years 2009-10 and 2010-11.

**Tessa Jowell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether any resources have been allocated to his Department's Humanitarian Assistance Unit to support UK nationals affected by the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. [48075]

**John Penrose:** The Department has not allocated any resources to support UK nationals affected by the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. Any support necessary is being co-ordinated by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

**Tessa Jowell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether any resources have been allocated to his Department's Humanitarian Assistance Unit to support UK nationals affected by the situation in Libya. [48076]

**John Penrose:** The Department has not allocated any resources to support UK nationals affected by the situation in Libya. Any support necessary is being co-ordinated by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

### Olympic Games 2012

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which Minister is to propose the Olympic Truce resolution at the General Assembly of the United Nations. [48082]

**Hugh Robertson:** The UK will introduce an Olympic Truce resolution in the UN General Assembly session beginning in September 2011. No decision has yet been made about who will introduce the resolution.

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of special event orders needed in each London borough to facilitate the holding of events to celebrate the London 2012 Olympics; and if he will make a statement. [48528]

**Hugh Robertson:** Work to compile a calendar of major events which are planned to take place in London in 2012 is well under way. A large number of boroughs, event organisers, cultural institutions and other organisations have registered information which will be shared with relevant public agencies to help with resource planning. Following evaluation, detailed discussions with boroughs and event organisers about planning can begin from summer 2011.

### Tourism

**Dr Wollaston:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect of his tourism strategy on *(a)* seaside towns, *(b)* rural communities and *(c)* Dartmoor National Park and other areas of outstanding natural beauty. [47528]

**John Penrose:** Over the next four years we are aiming to attract 4 million extra visitors to Britain adding £2 billion additional expenditure and creating 50,000 jobs through the new £100 million overseas tourism marketing fund.

In measurable terms we should increase the proportion of UK residents who holiday in the UK to match those who holiday abroad each year. For longer stays (four nights or more) this would mean 29% of travellers holidaying in Britain rather than just 20% today (creating 4.5 million extra domestic trips each year, £1.3 billion more spend and 26,000 new jobs). And if we can replicate this scale of improvement for shorter stays as well, we will create a further £750 million of spend and 11,000 new jobs.

I am afraid we have not broken these figures down into the particular categories suggested in this question.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Departmental Hospitality

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on the contents of ministerial drinks cabinets since 12 May 2010. [48413]

**Mr Davey:** There has been no purchases made for this purpose.

### Business Link

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for future funding of Business Link; and if he will make a statement. [48318]

**Mr Prisk:** The Government's plans for modernising the provision of publicly funded support, information and advice for business were set out in the 'Bigger, Better Business' pamphlet published on 5 January 2011. The regional Business Link advisory service will close by the end of November this year. The Businesslink website will continue and be enhanced, supported by a new national contact centre for those who cannot access the information they need on the website.

Following the spending review, the nine Regional Development Agencies will receive £92 million for 2011/12 to fund the regional Business Link advisory service's core information, diagnostics and brokerage offer.

Future funding of:

www.businesslink.gov.uk

is a matter for HM Revenue and Customs, who outsource the provision. The new national contact centre is subject to a tendering exercise.

### Micro-business: Statutory Rights

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the level of savings to the public purse which will result from a reduction in administration costs through exempting micro businesses from regulations on *(a)* maternity rights, *(b)* right to request flexible leave, *(c)* removal of the default retirement age and *(d)* flexible parental leave. [48219]

**Mr Davey** *[holding answer 22 March 2011]*: On *(a)* and *(d)*, the Government have no plans to exempt micro-businesses from current statutory maternity or parental leave provisions.

On *(b)*, the Government have recently announced that they are going to repeal—for all employers—the regulations extending the right to request flexible working to parents of 17-year-olds, which were due to come into force on 6 April. This extension would have imposed no burdens on the public purse; but would have imposed a total administrative cost of £456,000 per annum on employers.

On *(c)*, the Government are committed to removing the default retirement age, including the associated administrative procedures. We do not intend to provide for a default retirement age applicable only to micro businesses. We estimate a net benefit to the public purse from the implementation of this policy of over £120 million per annum.

### Companies House: Enforcement

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the outcome was of the investigation into the enforcement by Companies House of the provisions of sections 409 and 410 of the Companies Act 2006 in respect of the submission by businesses of lists of their subsidiary companies; what steps he is taking to ensure enforcement of the legislation; and what assessment he has made of the effect on this activity of the proposed reduction in staff numbers at Companies House. [48929]

**Mr Davey:** Companies House is currently responding to complaints about the failure of certain companies to disclose the required details of their overseas subsidiaries. In accordance with their established practice Companies House will seek to secure compliance with the legislation rather than embark immediately on retributive action.

Prosecution is an option that would normally only be undertaken in the light of a persistent and wilful failure to comply with the legislation and would be subject to the normal considerations under the Crown Prosecution Service guidelines.

The proposed reduction in staff numbers at Companies House will not have any effect on this activity.

### Dairy Products

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans his Department has to support the development of export markets for UK dairy producers *(a)* in the Far East and China and *(b)* elsewhere. [48522]

**Mr Prisk:** The full range of UKTI services, including access to trade fairs and support delivered in the regions and by overseas Posts, is open to all eligible UK based companies seeking to develop export markets, including those in the dairy sector. UKTI commercial staff in China have, for example, recently assisted the dairy industry to pursue animal health and geographical indications issues with the Chinese authorities.

### Departmental Assets

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether receipts from the sale of assets owned by regional development agencies are reflected in the spending plans of his Department for *(a)* 2012-13 and *(b)* 2013-14. [47416]

**Mr Prisk** *[holding answer 17 March 2011]:* The spending review settlement for regional development agencies (RDAs) is net of receipts and anticipates £61.5 million of receipts in 2012/13 and £43.5 million in 2013/14. These figures include income from different sources, including asset sales forecast to occur in the normal course of business. These receipts, along with the resources provided by the spending review, will fund the spending required to complete existing RDA legal commitments in respect of projects already under way.

### Departmental Expenditure

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what expenditure *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each public body sponsored by his Department incurred on engaging external audit services in each of the last three years; and to which service providers such payments were made in each year. [43756]

**Mr Davey:** The notional and actual fees for auditing the core Department's accounts, and the consolidated accounts of the Department (and the name of the provider), are included in the Department's annual report and accounts which are published each year on the BIS website. Fees for the Department's executive agencies and public bodies sponsored by the Department would be published in the annual accounts of each body.

Expenditure on other external audit services is not held centrally and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

### East of England Development Agency

**Mr Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what options he is considering for the disposal of the assets and liabilities of the East of England Development Agency; and on what date after receipt of its assets and liabilities plan he proposes to issue his conclusions. [46808]

**Mr Prisk** *[holding answer 17 March 2011]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Richard Graham) on 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1183W. The East of England Development Agency has submitted a detailed assets and liabilities plan, which is currently being scrutinised by Government. Information will be made available in due course, once in-principle decisions have been made on appropriate methods of disposal for particular types of assets.

### Environment Protection: Employment

**Tristram Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to support growth in levels of employment in *(a)* remanufacturing and *(b)* other environmental industries. [45203]

**Mr Prisk:** Remanufacturing is an important feature of the move to a low carbon economy. Any process which reduces costs, waste and carbon emissions, whilst meeting demand and serving the economy, is to be welcomed. Job creation must though come from the private sector. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills,(BIS), working with the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), is carrying out a review of energy intensive sectors, such as iron, steel and aluminium, which will consider how remanufacturing—and recycling—will play a role in ensuring the future competitiveness of these sectors in the low carbon economy. In the revised waste framework directive the waste hierarchy is now a priority order providing a strong driver to encourage greater reuse and recycling.

We are also working to create a Green Economy Roadmap which is a joint initiative between BIS, DECC and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, to provide clarity to business on the green economy, the Government's policy intentions and the implications for business over the next 10 years. We will be publishing details later in the year.

### Environment Protection: Investment

**John Stevenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage businesses to invest in environmental projects. [47288]

**Mr Prisk** *[holding answer 22 March 2011]:* The Department is developing a Green Economy Roadmap with colleagues from the Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which will provide greater clarity to businesses on the opportunities, requirements and implications as we green our economy.

### Higher Education: Finance

**Dr Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the reputational effects of the use of funds from *(a)* Libya, *(b)* former Nazi sources and *(c)* other oppressive regimes by UK universities; and if he will make a statement. [47581]

**Mr Willetts:** Universities are autonomous institutions. Each will set its own standards for, and assess the reputational effect of, the acceptance and use of donations. As charities, all English universities should follow guidance on the receipt of donations from the Charity Commission and any additional guidance from the Higher Education Funding Council for England in its role as principal regulator under the Charities Act 2006.

The Department does not hold information on the provenance of donations to universities in England and has made no central assessment of reputational effects.

**Dr Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will *(a)* draw-up and *(b)* promulgate a code of practice for higher education establishments in respect of the use of funds from oppressive regimes for sponsorship of (i) studentships and (ii) academic posts. [47583]

**Mr Willetts:** Higher education institutions (HEIs) are autonomous institutions and are charities. The regulator of charities in England and Wales is the Charity Commission and, if a relevant English HEI, the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), as principal regulator under the Charities Act 2006.

As a charity, each HEI will set its own standards for the acceptance of donations and must apply its income to deliver its charitable purposes for the public benefit. In doing so, HEIs need to give due notice to guidance on the receipt of donations and public benefit published by the Charity Commission and HEFCE. The Department does not plan to issue additional guidance.

### Micro-business: Regulation

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with interested parties on micro-business regulation. [48319]

**Mr Prisk:** Ministers have regular meetings with business representative bodies. The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has established an Entrepreneurs' Forum which met in January for the first time. A Small Business Economic Forum has also been established, which met in October 2010 and January.

I met with the Federation of Small Businesses, Institute of Directors and Confederation of British Industry most recently on 14 March.

### Northwest Regional Development Agency

**Alison McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made an assessment of the effect on the economy of the Northwest Regional Development Agency's rural development programme. [45798]

**Mr Paice:** I have been asked to reply.

The Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) currently delivers axes 1 and 3 of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) in the north-west region, in line with a Regional Implementation Plan. The RDPE has recently been subject to a Mid Term Evaluation which examined its progress for England as a whole against a wide range of indicators, including the impact of the programme on the rural economy to the extent that this was observable at the mid-term stage. The evaluation included a case study on the implementation of the RDPE in the north-west of England (including those elements delivered by the NWDA). The Mid Term Evaluation will be published shortly.

### Overseas Trade

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which foreign-owned companies based in *(a)* Brazil, *(b)* Russia, *(c)* India and *(d)* China have made the largest contributions to the UK economy in the latest period for which figures are available. [48342]

**Mr Prisk:** UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) is the Government department responsible for attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) to the UK, and enhancing the competitiveness of companies in the UK through overseas trade and investment. UKTI does not collect data which show the respective economic contribution to the UK economy of individual foreign-owned companies. UKTI does record the number of FDI projects entering the UK each year, together with the investing companies' estimates of associated jobs and (where made available) capital expenditure for the first three years of each FDI project. Companies are not required to provide capital expenditure data, and data gathered are therefore a partial data set.

Within the overall total for the UK, the figures for the latest period (financial year 2009-10) for Brazil, India and China are shown in the following table. There were no UKTI-recorded FDI projects from Russia that year.

| *Market* | *UKTI-recorded FDI projects* | *Number of new jobs* | *Number of safeguarded Jobs* | *Total number of associated jobs* | *Capital investment estimates, where supplied (£ million)* | *Number of projects for which capital investment estimates supplied* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brazil | 6 | 103 | 0 | 103 | 2.75 | 1 |
| China | 74 | 760 | 812 | 1,572 | 20.23 | 17 |
| India | 92 | 3,271 | 2,618 | 5,889 | 479.82 | 7 |
| Totals | 172 | 4,134 | 3,430 | 7,564 | 502.79 | 25 |

*Source:*
UKTI

### Professional Organisations

**Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the merits of introducing mandatory membership of independent professional bodies for professionals working in those employment sectors within his remit. [44187]

**Mr Hayes:** Professional standards, including occupational licensing, can be a powerful way of raising ambition in skills and training provision contributing to greater productivity and growth in a sector. They can also be effective in addressing wider product market failures including consumer protection and health and safety. In "Skills for Sustainable Growth" the Government made the commitment to encourage and support the development of new industry-led professional standards. Employers are best placed to decide on the specifics of any approach themselves, such as whether membership of a professional body should be mandatory or otherwise.

In the further education (FE) sector the Government will continue to support measures to ensure that we have a professionally-qualified teaching workforce. Current regulations require all FE teachers working in the publicly funded part of the sector to be members of the independent Institute for Learning established by teachers in FE themselves in 2002. The Government remain fully committed to the professional status of the FE teaching work force.

### Regional Development Agencies: Finance

**Mr Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value is of the residual assets of regional development agencies that have been transferred to the Homes and Communities Agency. [48833]

**Mr Prisk:** No residual RDA assets have yet been transferred to the Homes and Communities Agency.

## JUSTICE

### Court Orders

**Mr Raab:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for enforcement orders in respect of contact orders under section 8 of the Children Act 1989 were granted to parents in 2009. [48502]

**Mr Djanogly:** There was a total of 42 enforcement orders made in respect of contact orders in the county courts and family proceedings courts of England and Wales, in 2009. However, information about to which party contact orders are issued is not held centrally.

### Legal Advice and Assistance

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many family law matter starts the Legal Services Commission allocated when the initial results of the 2010 family law tender were announced; and how many such starts each successful bidder *(a)* returned or *(b)* reduced following the abandonment of the tender. [48460]

**Mr Djanogly:** As the tender for family services was quashed by the administrative court, no matter starts awarded could be returned or reduced under the new contract following the order quashing the tender.

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints the Legal Services Commission has recorded from *(a)* members of the judiciary, *(b)* hon. Members, *(c)* legal services providers and *(d)* others about its tender process for the family law contract; when each was received; and how each was (i) recorded and (ii) subsequently handled by the Commission. [48461]

**Mr Djanogly:** The LSC received 149 letters in relation to the family tender between 12 July 2010 and 22 November 2010. 43 of these were recorded as complaints.

Of the 43 recorded as complaints the following breakdown can be provided: *(a)* five from the judiciary; *(b)* 12 from MPs; *(c)* 18 from providers; *(d)* eight from others including three from provider representative bodies. They were all recorded on a central log and responded to by post or e-mail.

### Legal Services Commission: Complaints

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints the Legal Services Commission has *(a)* received and *(b)* recorded and dealt with within (i) three, (ii) 10 and (iii) 14 working days of receipt (A) since the appointment of its current chief executive and (B) in respect of the family law tender process conducted in 2010. [48459]

**Mr Djanogly:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance the Legal Services Commission follows in determining what constitutes a complaint made *(a)* to the Commission and *(b)* about its services; and what arrangements were made to (i) advise and (ii) train (A) the chairman, (B) the Chief Executive, (C) other personnel in the chief executive's office and (D) the legal director of the Commission in its complaints procedures. [48462]

**Mr Djanogly:** The LSC defines a complaint in its customer service standards as:

> "Any communication received by the Legal Services Commission that expresses a negative comment regarding the Commission and the service we provide."

As part of its commitment to customer service, the LSC has communicated its complaints guidance to all staff. All managers are expected to ensure that their teams are aware of the complaints procedures, and an online customer service training course is available for this purpose.

The chairman is responsible for ensuring that the LSC is delivering high standards of regularity and propriety, including ensuring that a robust complaints procedure is in place.

The chief executive is responsible for the day-to-day operations and management of the LSC, including ensuring that effective procedures for handling complaints about the LSC are maintained and made widely known within the LSC. The chief executive, the legal director and personnel in the chief executive's office are fully conversant with the complaints procedures.

### Prisoners: Mass Media

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 463W, on prisoners: mass media, which *(a)* external and *(b)* internal stakeholders were consulted on the production of PSI 37/2010. [48467]

**Mr Blunt:** The external stakeholders consulted on the draft Prison Service Instruction (PSI) 37/2010 Prisoners' Access to the Media prior to publication were the prisons and probation ombudsman, Her Majesty's chief inspector of prisons, the Independent Monitoring Boards Secretariat and the Youth Justice Board.

In addition, a wide range of colleagues in the Ministry of Justice and National Offender Management Service were invited to comment. This included those responsible for the victim liaison scheme.

### Work-based Stress

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements are in place in his Department to *(a)* reduce levels of work-based stress and *(b)* provide assistance to staff diagnosed with such stress. [48202]

**Mr Djanogly:** Ministry of Justice policies mandate that:

> An assessment is made of the risks to employee health from stress and other psychological hazards;
>
> procedures are implemented to manage and mitigate those risks, and
>
> support is provided for staff experiencing stress or psychological harm as a result of their work.

Managers and staff share responsibility for assessing and managing stress at work. MoJ provides detailed guidance on how these actions should be carried out and the arrangements which should be followed; this also applies with regard to staff who are exposed to potentially traumatising incidents.

Managers and staff have access to support through occupational health and employee assistance services, which include confidential counselling and other psychological therapeutic interventions as appropriate. Managers must consider referral to occupational health services in all cases where staff are absent through sickness with stress-related problems.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had on increasing the area of secure zone in Afghanistan beyond Kabul. [47385]

**Dr Fox:** The main effort of Afghan and international forces remains in southern Afghanistan, and UK forces continue to play a key role in the central Helmand area. Expansion of security within Kabul and surrounding provinces has also been an important part of the campaign and where significant progress has been made in recent months as General Petraeus and I discussed on my last visit to Afghanistan.

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to prepare for any spring offensive by the Taliban in Afghanistan. [47386]

**Dr Fox:** The Ministry of Defence has recently completed a review of deployed forces and judges that force levels and posture are robust enough to deal with any spring offensive by the Taliban in UK areas of operation. The high tempo and aggressive operations carried out over the winter months to disrupt the Taliban will continue.

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate his Department has made of the likely force density of UK troops in Afghanistan in 2015. [47387]

**Dr Fox:** The Prime Minister has given a clear public commitment that there will not be British troops in a combat role or in Afghanistan in significant numbers in 2015. However, the UK will continue to have an enduring relationship with Afghanistan based on trade, aid and development, and on training Afghan troops and building that capacity for the future.

The Ministry of Defence is considering options for our military contribution post-2015; no decisions have yet been taken.

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of trends in the performance of the Afghan National Security Forces. [47429]

**Dr Fox:** The International Security Assistance Force and the Afghan Government are involved in a continual assessment process that looks at the performance and capabilities of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). As I explained to the House on 14 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 732-35, there have been significant advances in both the size and capabilities of the ANSF.

Both the Afghan national army and Afghan national police met their growth objectives for 2010, and are on track to meet the targets for 2011, agreed at the Kabul conference last year.

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the new runway at Camp Bastion to enter into service; and what types of aircraft he expects it to be able to accommodate. [48069]

**Nick Harvey:** The new runway at Bastion opened on 10 February 2011 and routine flying commenced on 1 March 2011. It is suitable for strategic air transport aircraft.

### Armed Forces: Health Services

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to improve the assistance given to soldiers to prepare them for life upon return from tours of duty. [45857]

**Mr Robathan:** The Ministry of Defence has made, and continues to make, significant progress in managing operational stress and the transition back to life at home through a number of initiatives. Key among these are that:

Trauma risk management is standard practice across all three services to manage traumatic stress through peer mentoring throughout the operational deployment.

Prior to returning to their home base, all personnel who have been deployed for more than 30 days will undergo 'decompression' in Cyprus to improve the quality of homecoming.

Each service has specific recovery capabilities designed to manage injured personnel and bring them back to full fitness for operations or to prepare them for civilian life.

In addition, there is an ongoing programme of independent research to generate a deeper understanding of mental health issues. Those returning home after an operational deployment will also have access to the welfare support services, such as chaplaincy and confidential support lines, which are also available to armed forces personnel other than those returning from deployment.

### Army: Military Bases

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the changes to existing UK bases required in order to accommodate troops scheduled to return from Germany under the recommendations of the Strategic Defence and Security Review; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such changes. [47606]

**Nick Harvey:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave him and the hon. Member for Plymouth, Sutton and Devonport (Oliver Colvile) on 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 361W.

### Departmental Disclosure of Information

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many staff of his Department have been questioned as part of the inquiry established to determine responsibility for the unauthorised disclosure of the letter from the Secretary of State to the Prime Minister published in *The Daily Telegraph* on 28 September 2010; [47913]

(2) when he expects the inquiry to determine responsibility for the unauthorised disclosure of the letter from the Secretary of State to the Prime Minister published in *The Daily Telegraph* on 28 September 2010 to report; [47914]

(3) what progress his Department has made in establishing responsibility for the unauthorised disclosure of the letter from the Secretary of State to the Prime Minister published in *The Daily Telegraph* on 28 September 2010; [47915]

(4) how much the inquiry established to determine responsibility for the unauthorised disclosure of the letter from the Secretary of State to the Prime Minister published in *The Daily Telegraph* on 28 September 2010 has cost to date; [47916]

(5) whether the inquiry established to determine responsibility for the unauthorised disclosure of the letter from the Secretary of State to the Prime Minister published in *The Daily Telegraph* on 28 September 2010 has reported any interim findings; and if he will make a statement. [47917]

**Dr Fox** *[holding answer 21 March 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence investigation is ongoing. I am not prepared to comment further, nor to speculate when the inquiries may be complete.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what discussions he has had with the Comptroller and Auditor General on the methodology of the National Audit Office for calculating the unfunded liability in his Department's budget over the next 10 years; [47337]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Comptroller and Auditor General on the estimate by *(a)* the National Audit Office and *(b)* his Department of the unfunded liability in his Department's budget over the next 10 years. [47338]

**Dr Fox:** In the future, as part of implementing the recommendations of the Gray Report, we plan to provide, in conjunction with the National Audit Office, an annual statement of the affordability of the equipment programme against the Defence budget. Officials continue to discuss with the National Audit Office how this might best be achieved.

## HMS Gannet

**Mr Donohoe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* payroll and *(b)* running costs of the HMS Gannet search and rescue flight were in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10; and what the estimate is of such costs in 2010-11. [47892]

**Nick Harvey:** The payroll and running costs incurred by Navy Command in respect of HMS Gannet search and rescue flight are provided in the following table:

£

| | *FY 2008-09* | *FY 2009-10* | *FY 2010-11*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| Service Manpower | 2,021,785 | 1,867,239 | 2,151,369 |
| Civilian Manpower | 197,011 | 222,262 | 234,283 |
| Running Costs | 1,925,876 | 1,741,338 | 2,194,998 |
| Receipts | -968,909 | -853,489 | -824,841 |
| Total | 3,175,763 | 2,977,350 | 3,755,809 |

[1] Financial year 2010-11 year to date figures have been extrapolated.

These figures reflect costs attributed directly to HMS Gannet's unit identification number: other costs such as IT and utilities may be incurred by the establishment but are not separately identifiable. Similarly, costs for Engineering Support to HMS Gannet fall to RNAS Culdrose under the Aviation Engineering Multi Activity Contract and are not separately identifiable. Receipts reflect search and rescue income from the Maritime Coastguard Agency and Scottish Ambulance Service.

## Indonesia: Foreign Relations

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the state of defence and security relations between the UK and Indonesia; and if he will make a statement. [47333]

**Nick Harvey:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Mid Sussex (Nicholas Soames) on 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 80-81W.

## Nuclear Weapons

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the logistics plan for implementing the reduction in nuclear weapons numbers announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review to be completed; when it is intended to commence the return of warheads to the Atomic Weapons Establishment for decommissioning; and when the reduction in stockpile size will be complete. [47825]

**Dr Fox:** I will write to the hon. Member.

## Rescue Services: Helicopters

**Mr Donohoe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many search and rescue helicopters are in operation *(a)* nationally and *(b)* at each base; on which date each helicopter was first used; and if he will make a statement. [47890]

**Nick Harvey:** UK Search and Rescue (SAR) helicopter capability is provided from a pool of 38 military and seven civilian operated helicopters based at 12 SAR bases, each of which is required to field at least one helicopter to incidents during their operating hours.

Details of the SAR stations at which dedicated SAR helicopters are based and first dates of entry into service as are shown in the following table:

| *Station* | *Number of aircraft at each station* | *In-service date* |
|---|---|---|
| RNAS Culdrose | 2 | Sea King Mk5 - 1980 |
| HMS Gannet (Prestwick) | 2 | [1]— |
| RMB Chivenor | 2 | Sea King Mk3 - 1978;<br>Sea King Mk3a - 1996 |
| DST Leconfield | 2 | [1]— |
| Wattisham Airfield | 2 | [1]— |
| RAF Boulmer | 2 | [1]— |
| RAF Lossiemouth | 2 | [1]— |
| RAF Valley | 2 | [1]— |
| Sumburgh | 2 | Sikorsky S-92 - January 2008 |
| Stornaway | 2 | Sikorsky S-92 - October 2007 |
| Lee-on-Solent | 2 | AgustaWestland AW139 - July 2008 |
| Portland | 1 | AgustaWestland AW139 - April 2008 |

[1] Indicates brace

For military SAR helicopters dates of entry into service are for the particular fleets of aircraft. Military SAR helicopters not dedicated to UK SAR tasks will undertake other military tasks, SAR training or depth maintenance.

## Strategic Defence and Security Review

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the new employment model announced in the strategic defence and security review; what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the implementation of the model on *(a)* former and *(b)* current service personnel; what timetable he has set for the introduction of the model; and whether the introduction of the model will have any consequences for his Department's budget. [45916]

**Mr Robathan:** The new employment model (NEM) programme aims to examine how we might strike a better balance between the requirements of service and the demands placed on service personnel and their families, adjusting where necessary to promote greater stability in service life while continuing to recognise the impact of mobility.

Detailed work is due to commence in April 2011 and report in the summer of 2012. The intent is that policy changes will be implemented from April 2014, but it is too early at this stage to quantify the potential budgetary impact. We do not anticipate that any changes will affect service personnel who leave prior to the introduction of the NEM.

### Third Sector

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what account he has taken of the compact between the Government and civil society in policy development. [42602]

**Dr Fox:** The compact between the coalition Government and civil society organisations was agreed and launched on 16 December 2010. It was accompanied for the first time by guidance on accountability and transparency, ensuring that Government Departments as well as civil society organisations are clear about the level of commitment and the implications for not following the compact. The Cabinet Office considers policy that is relevant to civil society organisations from a compact perspective, ensuring that it is adhered to, and where it is not possible for whatever reason, that this is explained to the sector in an open and transparent manner.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Departmental Hospitality

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on the contents of ministerial drinks cabinets since 12 May 2010. [48400]

**Chris Grayling:** This Department does not have any ministerial drinks cabinets so has spent nothing on their contents.

### Autism

**Mr Brine:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to take into account the needs of people with autism in designing the assessment procedure for the personal independence payment. [44821]

**Maria Miller:** The assessment is being developed in collaboration with an independent group of specialists in health, social care and disability, including disabled people. We know it is essential that it accurately captures the needs of disabled people with autistic spectrum disorders and this is something that the development group is considering. For example, they believe that the new assessment should explicitly take account of the impact of a health condition or impairment, including autistic spectrum disorders, on an individual's ability to communicate. This would set it apart from the current DLA assessment. Both I and departmental officials have met with the National Autistic Society to discuss our reform proposals and to seek their views on how the new benefit can best support those with autism. We will continue to work with disabled people and their organisations as the detail of the assessment criteria and its operation is developed and tested.

### Child Support

**Kate Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will undertake research to establish the number of children who live in separated families for whom effective arrangements are in place. [39083]

**Maria Miller:** The Department for Work and Pensions regularly reviews its research requirements. Specific research proposals are considered under a range of criteria, including evidence priorities and value for money.

The Green Paper 'Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child maintenance' has set out the coalition Government's vision for child maintenance. The research required to support these proposed policies will be considered against the wider departmental requirements.

Currently more than three million children live in separated families and around 50% do not receive child maintenance.

### Childcare

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people he expects to receive payments for childcare from the public purse to cover *(a)* 90 per cent. or more, *(b)* 80 per cent. or more and *(c)* 70 per cent. or more of the cost of childcare in each of the next four years. [46406]

**Maria Miller:** The information available is in the table. It covers the number of households we expect to benefit from the child care element of tax credits in the current and next three years.

The child care element of tax credits in 2010-11 covers up to 80% of child care costs of up to £175 a week for one child and £300 a week for two or more children. From April 2011 the proportion is 70%.

Some families may have a lower proportion of their costs covered because either their costs exceed the maximum limits supported in tax credits, or because they are on the taper so have had some of their support tapered away. We cannot estimate the number of families in this position as we do not know the proportion of costs that the amounts paid out represent for all families.

Some of these families will be able to disregard child care payments from their earnings in housing benefit and council tax benefit. Where this is the case they can see over 90% of their costs covered. Administrative data showing the number of people benefiting from the additional disregard in those benefits are not available.

| | *Households benefiting from the child care element of tax credits* |
|---|---:|
| 2010-11 | 485,000 |
| 2011-12 | 500,000 |
| 2012-13 | 510,000 |

We are currently unable to offer the requested information for estimates after the introduction of the universal credit in 2013. As the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions said at Second Reading of the Welfare Reform Bill, we will be supporting the costs of child care with an additional element in the universal credit and we will invest at least the same amount of money as in the present system. More detailed proposals are under consideration and will be announced during passage of the Bill.

### Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on *(a)* salaries and *(b)* pension entitlements for special advisers in the financial year 2010-11 to date. [46567]

**Chris Grayling:** The Government publish, on a quarterly basis, the names of special advisers by Department, including each special adviser's pay band, and actual salary where this is £58,200 or higher, together with details of special advisers' pay ranges. The latest list, which includes an estimate of the total pay bill and pension costs for 2010-11, was published on the Cabinet Office website on 10 March 2011:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

Details of pension arrangements are set out in the Model contract for Special Advisers also published on the Cabinet Office website.

### Disability Living Allowance

**Margaret Curran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the likely number of people affected by his proposal to change the qualifying period for disability living allowance from three months to six months. [35509]

**Maria Miller:** On 6 December 2010 we launched a consultation on the reform of disability living allowance with the key proposal of a new benefit, to be known as personal independence payment, which will be introduced from 2013. The consultation proposed that the personal independence payment will have a six month qualifying period and a six month prospective test. The consultation closed on 14 February.

The personal independence payment is designed to support individuals with long-term conditions. Other support is available to provide necessary financial support, such as NHS travel costs, free prescriptions, aids, and adaptations provided by the NHS or the local authority and through a range of social security benefits depending on their circumstances during this period, including access to employment and support allowance. As for disability living allowance, claims for personal independence payment may be made during the qualifying period meaning that dependent upon the nature of the impact of their disability claimants may not have to wait six months before payment can start.

As the new assessment for personal independence payment has not yet been finalised no estimate is available for the numbers who will receive the new benefit and therefore will be affected by the change to the qualifying period.

**Margaret Hodge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for the mobility component of disability living allowance were made by residents of care homes in the London borough of Barking and Dagenham in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [47241]

**Maria Miller:** We are unable to say how many residents of care homes in the London borough of Barking and Dagenham have applied for the mobility component of disability living allowance in each of the last five years.

This is because our management information systems do not provide us with details of customers living in care homes or which council district they live in. Although this level of detail is held on the person's records we estimate that there would be a disproportionate cost to the Department in having to extract this information.

### Employment and Support Allowance

**Graeme Morrice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what period of time people eligible for employment and support allowance (ESA) will receive additional transitional payments where their incapacity benefit payments are more than their newly-assessed ESA rate. [48188]

**Chris Grayling:** People who move from old-style incapacity benefits to employment and support allowance will receive transitional protection payments if the level of employment and support allowance they receive is less than their incapacity benefits payments. This is to ensure that potentially vulnerable customers do not lose out as a result of the reassessment.

Transitional payments will continue to be made until April 2020. Transitional payments will cease earlier if the annual uprating of employment and support allowance means that the amount of employment and support allowance to which a customer is entitled becomes equal to their previous award of incapacity benefits. If this was to happen before 2020, the customer would no longer need a transitional allowance.

If a customer ceases to be entitled to employment and support allowance, for example if they become well enough to get a job, they will no longer be entitled to a transitional payment.

### Employment Rights

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people worked on the enforcement of employment rights and related protections in the Health and Safety Executive in each of the last five years; how many people he expects to work on such matters in that body in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [47438]

**Chris Grayling:** The information requested is not available in the specified format. The HSE currently has nine authorised working time officers, whose role includes handling complaints received about provisions under the Working Time Regulations 1998 that the HSE enforce. In addition, HSE inspectors are authorised to enforce the same provisions. We do not envisage any significant change to the resources devoted to this work over the next three years.

### Poverty and Social Exclusion

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) with reference to the conclusions of the 3037th Employment, Social, Health and Consumer Affairs Council meeting on the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion, what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the UK of the implementation of the European framework for social and territorial cohesion; [46854]

(2) whether the Employment Council conclusions on the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion require the UK to finalise national targets on social inclusion and poverty; what assessment he has made of the effect on the UK of the actions expected of member states; and if he will make a statement. [46860]

**Chris Grayling:** The Council Conclusions on the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion carries forward the June 2010 European Council Conclusions on the Europe 2020 Strategy for Jobs and Growth, which ask member states to finalise their national targets taking into account individual starting positions, national circumstances and national decision-making procedures.

The Child Poverty Act sets clear targets for the Government in respect of child poverty. This will be our contribution to the EU wide target on poverty and social exclusion in the National Reform Programme which will be submitted to the Commission in April 2011.

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to her question number 44416 on 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1080W.

## Remploy

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by Remploy on hotel and conference facilities in each year since 2005. [41494]

**Maria Miller:** To ensure Remploy can continue to operate its Modernisation Plan funding and to reflect the fiscal constraints faced by Government since May 2010 the organisation has either not attended or curtailed their presence at nine conference/exhibitions. A balance will be struck between the need to promote the organisation's work and the need for fiscal constraint.

Remploy are in discussions with DWP and Buying Solutions to explore how they may use Government hotel and travel booking services to make further savings on expenditure. Buying Solutions is the professional buying organisation that provides central procurement services as part of the efficiency and reform group of the Cabinet Office.

The information that is available is provided in the following table.

£

| | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Meeting and conference costs | 323,000 | 483,000 | 1,012,000 | 657,000 | 415,000 |
| Public transport costs including hotels and meals | 2,875,751 | 3,280,026 | 3,447,133 | 3,495,410 | 3,150,597 |
| Of which: hotel and meals | [1]— | — | — | — | 1,143,000 |

[1] Prior to 2009, Remploy did not record expenditure on hotels separately, when an automated expenses system was introduced in the company. For the years 2005-06 to 2007-08, the table therefore provides overall expenditure under the travel classification which includes hotels and meals.

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people Remploy employment services has assisted to find *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time employment lasting more than (i) three months, (b) six months and (iii) a year in each of the last five years. [43119]

**Maria Miller:** Full-time job starts are counted on vacancies of 16 hours or more per week. Part-time job starts are for vacancies offering less than 16 hours per week.

The figures shown include the full range of services delivered through Remploy Employment Services including Workstep and Work Choice that replaced Workstep in October 2010.

Please note that numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10, therefore the totals may not add up due to rounding.

The information requested is provided in the following table:

| *Job starts in the year* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Full-time job starts in work longer than 13 weeks and less than six months | 560 | 760 | 650 | 740 | 740 |
| Full-time job starts in work longer than six months and less than 12 months | 790 | 750 | 580 | 810 | 1,200 |
| Full-time job starts in work longer than 12 months | 1,600 | 1,880 | 2,880 | 2,610 | 2,840 |
| Full-time job starts total in work in excess of 13 weeks | 2,950 | 3,400 | 4,110 | 4,170 | 4,780 |
| Part-time job starts in work longer than 13 weeks and less than six months | 20 | 40 | 450 | 100 | 50 |
| Part-time job starts in work longer than six months and less than 12 months | 20 | 40 | 40 | 50 | 60 |
| Part-time job starts in work longer than 12 months | 50 | 100 | 220 | 180 | 130 |
| Part-time job starts total in excess of 13 weeks | 90 | 170 | 310 | 330 | 230 |

## Social Security Benefits

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to his Department's impact assessment on fraud penalties and sanctions, how many cases resulting in *(a)* a £350 minimum fine and *(b)* a £50 civil penalty he expects there to be in each year to 2014-15. [46410]

**Chris Grayling:** Estimates of the number of cases resulting in *(a)* a £350 minimum fine and *(b)* a £50 civil penalty are set out in the following table. These take into account historical sanction data, increasing the number of fraud investigators, improving use of data and analytics and introducing a penalty for attempted fraud. The measures will be introduced in 2012.

| | *2012-13* | *2013-14* | *2014-15* |
|---|---|---|---|
| £350 minimum fine[1] | 42,000 | 45,000 | 47,000 |
| £50 civil penalty | 513,000 | 542,000 | 571,000 |

[1] This figure includes those who will have a fixed £350 penalty where the overpayment is up to £700, as well as those above this where the penalty will be 50% of the benefit overpayment, subject to a maximum of £2,000.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.

### Social Security Benefits: Children

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the effect on levels of access by children to payments under *(a)* the proposal made of payment to couple families with children and *(b)* the existing tax credit system. [47092]

**Maria Miller:** The universal credit award is intended to be paid as a single amount per household, including couple households. We are allowing members of the couple to decide between them whether the money goes into a joint account or if it is received by one or other of them. It is then for the household to decide who in the family has access to funds and how any money, including benefit income and wages, is used to budget for household costs. There may be exceptional cases that require state intervention to ensure that the rest of the family, including the children, benefit from the payment: we are considering the best ways of providing support in those cases.

In the current tax credit system, certain elements are paid to the parent who is identified as the main carer for the children but the way in which funds are actually used will similarly depend on household management of finances.

### Social Security Benefits: Pay Methods

**Sarah Newton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in each postcode area of Truro and Falmouth constituency were paid benefits of each type by girocheque in the latest period for which figures are available. [47816]

**Chris Grayling:** The information is not available in the format requested as data are not held by postcode areas and relate to benefit accounts rather than people.

As at September 2010, there were 410 pension or benefit accounts paid by cheque in the Truro and Falmouth constituency. These were made up of 180 state pension and/or pension credit accounts, and 220 other benefit accounts.

Due to the very small numbers involved, it would be inappropriate to break down figures any further as this could potentially compromise the privacy of individual customers.

### Work-based Stress

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what arrangements are in place in his Department to *(a)* reduce levels of work-based stress and *(b)* provide assistance to staff diagnosed with such stress. [48192]

**Chris Grayling:** The DWP has suitable and sufficient policies and arrangements in place to tackle work-related stress.

Preventative measures include:

The Department's Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) which provides staff and managers with a range of support services including workshops and awareness training on, among other things:

preventing pressure becoming stress

developing strategies to cope with change

building resilience

The DWP 'live well work well' well-being programme which provides employees with a wealth of on-site and on-line help and advice on identifying, and practical ways to reduce, work related stress.

Support measures include:

Organisationally, the Annual Staff Survey identifies work-related stress with managers responsible for creating focus groups and improvement action planning for their teams to deal with specific issues identified.

Individually, line managers are trained to identify and manage stress and are required to complete individual stress risk assessments for their staff where appropriate.

The EAP also provides access to a free 24 hour helpline, including information and counselling, to support individuals with stress related issues.

The Department's Occupational Health service also provides advice to managers and employees, from professional occupational health clinicians, to help the employee manage their condition better at work or to return to work from sick leave. This would include advice on practical adjustments or additional measures that can be taken to support the employee.

### Unemployment: Bexley

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency who have been out of work for more than 12 months. [36205]

**Chris Grayling:** This is a matter for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), however I have been asked to reply.

The ONS compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. However, due to sample size, estimates of unemployment for the requested duration and geography are not available. As an alternative the ONS have provided the number of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance for the Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency.

There were 250 people resident in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency in receipt of jobseeker's allowance for over 12 months in January 2011.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

### Universal Credit

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost in administration incurred in dividing payments of universal credit between both partners in couple households in the first two years of its operation. [46771]

**Chris Grayling:** One of the key aims of universal credit will be to significantly reduce the administration costs. We are at the moment designing the detailed processes so it is not yet possible to estimate the administrative costs associated with a universal credit payment.

### Universal Credit: Equality

**David Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of the introduction of universal credit on equality between men and women. [48176]

**Chris Grayling:** We published a universal credit equality impact assessment on 8 March 2011, this is available on the Department for Work and Pensions website:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/eia-universal-credit-wr2011.pdf

### Welfare State: Reform

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) with reference to paragraph 31 of his Department's impact assessment on conditionality measures in the Welfare Reform Bill what assessment he has made of potential future trends in the number of *(a)* sanctions and *(b)* disentitlement decisions; [46381]

(2) with reference to his Department's impact assessment on conditionality measures in the Welfare Reform Bill, how many people he estimates will receive a benefit sanction under each level of financial penalty in each year to 2015-16. [46385]

**Chris Grayling:** The Welfare Reform Bill sets the framework for changes to the application of sanctions under existing benefits and also introduces a framework for the application of conditionality and sanctions under universal credit. These reforms will elicit behavioural responses that are difficult to predict. Consequently, the Department has not forecast the number of benefit sanctions or disentitlements.

However, the Department does hold data on the annual number of sanctions and disentitlements received by jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimants. In 2009-10 there were:

159,950 decisions to impose a sanction;

331,230 decisions to disentitle (eg for claimants who fail to actively seek or be available for work);

Totalling 491,180 sanction and disentitlement decisions.

### Winter Fuel Payments

**Tom Blenkinsop:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many winter fuel payments were made to households in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Teesside and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 10 years. [47746]

**Steve Webb:** The information that is available is in the table.

*The number of households receiving a winter fuel payment*

| | *England* | *North East Government office region* | *Tees Valley* | *Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland parliamentary constituency* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 6,970,630 | 379,950 | 93,235 | 13,560 |
| 2003-04 | 7,017,830 | 381,370 | 93,675 | 13,740 |
| 2004-05 | 7,196,990 | 387,830 | 95,285 | 14,120 |
| 2006-07 | 7,405,680 | 396,270 | 97,370 | 14,740 |
| 2007-08 | 7,585,940 | 405,300 | 99,750 | 15,180 |
| 2008-09 | 7,713,430 | 410,170 | 101,060 | 15,470 |
| 2009-10 | 7,862,140 | 417,090 | 102,490 | 15,710 |

*Notes*:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest five up to 2004-05 and from 2006-07 onwards to the nearest 10.
2. Figures for 2009-10 are based on May 2010 parliamentary constituency boundaries.
3. Household figures for 2005-06 have been withdrawn pending a review of the figures. The revised figures will be placed in the Commons Library shortly.
4. Household figures are not available prior to 2002-03.
5. Data for England are the sum of the English Government office regions.
6. Data for Tees Valley are the sum of Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton authorities.
7. The latest figures for winter fuel payments are published at: http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=wfp

*Source*:

DWP Information Directorate 100% data

### Yorkshire and the Humber

**Mr Blunkett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what plans he has to reduce the number of staff in the employment service in Sheffield in the next three years; and what information on this his Department has made available to hon. Members; [47710]

(2) how many *(a)* (i) compulsory and (ii) voluntary redundancies and *(b)* early releases his Department intends to implement in (A) Sheffield and (B) Yorkshire and the Humber in the next three years; [47711]

(3) what information his Department has given to staff of his Department in *(a)* Sheffield and *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber in relation to (i) the non-filling of existing vacancies, (ii) compulsory redundancy and (iii) voluntary redundancy, severance or early release; and if he will make a statement. [47712]

**Chris Grayling:** The 2010 spending review settlement will result in the Department's core budget being reduced by 26% in real terms over the four years to 2014-15, although, the Department will receive substantial extra resources to deliver a range of new measures.

This outcome is likely to result in staffing being reduced in some areas of the Department and increased in others, and at different rates. More detailed work is under way to allocate resources to the different parts of the Department, develop more detailed plans and assess the resulting staffing levels. Work on the future staffing position will also take account of estimated staff turnover rates and the potential for internal and external redeployment. It is not therefore possible to provide estimates of future staff numbers or potential redundancies in Sheffield or the wider Yorkshire area at this stage.

There have been departmental wide communications on the spending review settlement and potential impacts on overall staff numbers. There have been no additional formal communications specific to Sheffield or Yorkshire and the Humber.

## TRANSPORT

### ATOL Scheme

**Paul Maynard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the proportion of those buying flight-based holidays who will be protected under the revised ATOL scheme. [43147]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Civil Aviation Authority administers the ATOL scheme and estimate that in 2009-10 some 21 million holiday makers were protected by it.

On 3 February 2011, I announced to the House the Government's in principle decision to reform ATOL to improve protection for consumers in a changing holiday market. The reforms would extend the ATOL scheme to Flight Plus holidays sold by travel agents and tour operators. Such trips closely resemble package holidays but are not covered by the existing legal definition and so currently fall outside ATOL.

Subject to consultation, the intention is for the reforms to be implemented by new secondary legislation in late 2011 or early 2012. It is estimated that, over time, this will ensure around an additional 6 million holidays per year benefit from full ATOL protection.

### Departmental Relocation

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to relocate *(a)* staff and *(b)* offices of his Department to Brighton; and if he will make a statement. [43471]

**Norman Baker:** The Department for Transport comprises DfT (Central), the headquarters functions responsible mainly for policy issues, and seven executive agencies responsible for the delivery of various services.

Department for Transport Central has no current plans to relocate staff or offices to Brighton. The Department for Transport (including our Executive Agencies) will consider opportunities for relocation as they arise, for example, through departmental reorganisation and reviews of estates requirements.

### Cardiff-Ebbw Vale Railway Line: Electrification

**Nick Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the statement of 1 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 185-87, on Intercity Express and rail electrification, what plans he has for the electrification of the Cardiff to Ebbw Vale line; and if he will make a statement. [44536]

**Mrs Villiers** *[holding answer 7 March 2011]:* The Department for Transport has committed to work with the Welsh Assembly Government to develop a business case for the electrification of the key valley commuter lines north of Cardiff via Pontypridd and Caerphilly to Treherbert, Aberdare, Merthyr Tydfil, Coryton and Rhymney, as well as the lines to Penarth and Barry Island to the west. There is no current proposal for electrification of the line from Newport to Ebbw Vale.

### Departmental Billing

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in January and February 2011. [45089]

**Norman Baker:** The 10 day target has been replaced with a five day target, and information is recorded on this basis.

The percentage of invoices paid within five days of receipt for the Department and its seven Agencies for January 2011 is published on the Department's website at the following address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/procurement/dft/

The data for February are expected to be available shortly.

### Departmental Expenditure

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what expenditure *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each public body sponsored by his Department incurred on engaging external audit services in each of the last three years; and to which service providers such payments were made in each year. [43752]

**Norman Baker:** The information requested is in the following tables:

The auditors of DFT(c) are the National Audit Office (NAO). The notional fees for the NAO's audit services are as follows:

*DFT(c)*

*DFT(c)*

| | *Expenditure (£)* | *Of which:* |
|---|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 855,000 | [1]112,000 |
| 2008-09 | 850,500 | [2]99,500 |
| 2007-08 | 737,000 | |

[1] To review the transitional steps undertaken by the Department to move from UK Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

[2] To review the transitional steps undertaken by the Department to move from UK GAAP to IFRS.

The NAO also performs other statutory audit activity, including value for money and assurance work, at no cost to the Department.

*DSA*

In each of the last three years, DSA has engaged the NAO to conduct an annual external audit. The costs are shown as follows:

*DSA*

| | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 69,000 |
| 2008-09 | 64,000 |
| 2007-08 | 55,000 |

### *DVLA*

The following table shows the expenditure the DVLA incurred on engaging external audit services from the NAO for the last three financial years.

*DVLA*

| | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 292,000 |
| 2008-09 | 135,000 |
| 2009-10 | 136,000 |

### *GCDA*

The GCDA auditors are the NAO:

*GCDA*

| | *£* |
|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 49,000 |
| 2008-09 | 47,000 |
| 2007-08 | 30,000 |

### *HA*

HA incurred the following audit costs with the NAO in each of the last three financial years as follows:

*HA*

| | | *£* |
|---|---|---|
| | *Actual costs (including VAT)* | *Notional costs (recorded in accounts but without physical payment)* |
| 2007-08 | 13,000.00 | 312,000.00 |
| 2008-09 | 14,000.00 | 333,000.00 |
| 2009-10 | 20,400.00 | 314,000.00 |

There are no other external audit costs.

### *MCA*

Taken from the MCA's accounts for the past three financial years.

*External auditors*

The statutory audit of the MCA's financial statements is undertaken by the NAO under the provisions of the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000.

The cost of audit services for the financial year ending 31 March 2010 was £85,000. No other fee was received in respect of non-statutory work.

The cost of audit services for the financial year ending 31 March 2009 was £63,000 plus £10,000 in respect of the implementation of IFRS. The auditors received no remuneration for non audit services.

The cost of audit services for the financial year ending 31 March 2008 was £63,000. The auditors received no remuneration for non audit services.

### *VCA*

Audit undertaken by the NAO.

2009-10: £46,000

2008-09: The notional cost of audit services in 2008-2009 was £38,000 plus an additional notional cost of £7,500 for undertaking an additional audit of VCA's accounts under the new IFRS.

2007-08: £37,000. No fees, actual or notional, were incurred for non audit work.

### *VOSA*

The VOSA has spent the following amount on external auditing services in each of the last three years:

*VOSA*

| | *£* |
|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 58,000 |
| 2008-09 | 77,000 |
| 2007-08 | 59,000 |

All payments were made to the NAO.

### *NDPBs*

### *BTP*

NAO audit BTP accounts and the charges from them for external audit services and other services in the last three financial years are as follows:

*BTP*

| | *£* |
|---|---|
| 2009-10 | [1]145,000 |
| 2008-09 | [2]140,000 |
| 2007-08 | 110,000 |

[1] Audit

[2] Audit and £10,000 for IFRS Restatement

The charge for 2010-11 is expected to be £110,000

### *DOR and BRB (Residuary)*

*DOR and BRB (Residuary)*

| | | *Supplier* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| DOR | 2007-08 | Nil | [1]0 |
| | 2008-09 | Nil | [1]0 |
| | 2009-10 | PwC | 10,000 |
| East Coast Main Line Company | 2007-08 | Nil | [1]0 |
| | 2008-09 | Nil | [1]0 |
| | 2009-10 | PwC | 67,500 |
| BRB (Residuary) Ltd. | 2007-08 | PwC | 49,000 |
| | 2008-09 | PwC | 126,000 |
| | 2009-10 | PwC | 139,000 |

[1] Company dormant

The large increase in BRBR's costs from 2008-09 arise as a result of new subsidiaries of BRBR, that need to be audited, being incorporated.

### *GLF*

The "external audit" of the GLF is undertaken by the NAO. The payment is made as a single payment out of the GLF which covers all three of the GLAs (Northern Lighthouse Board, Trinity House, Commissioners of Irish Lights). The audit fee for 2009-10 was £135,000, 2008-09 £126,000 and 2007-08 £131,000.

### *HS2 Ltd.*

HS2 Ltd's external auditors are Thornton Springer LLP.

The cost in 2009-10 was £10,575 (inc VAT).

### *PF*

2008-09: £23,000 paid to NAO including £1,500 for reviewing adjustments required for compliance with IFRS.

2009-10: £23,000 paid to the NAO including £1,500 for reviewing adjustments required for compliance with IFRS.

### *RHC*

Nil

*RFA*

| *RFA* | |
|---|---|
| *NAO* | *£* |
| 2007-08 | 4,100 |
| 2008-09 | 13,200 |
| 2009-10 | 12,000 |

*Key:*

DFT(c)—Department for Transport (Centre)
DSA—Driving Standards Agency
DVLA—Driver, Vehicle and Licensing Agency
GCDA—Government Car and Despatch Agency
HA—Highways Agency
MCA—Maritime and Coastguard Agency
VCA—Vehicle Certification Agency
VOSA—Vehicle and Operator Services Agency
BTP—British Transport Police
DOR—Directly Operated Railways
BRB—British Railways Board (Residuary) Ltd.
GLF—General Lighthouse Fund
HS2—High Speed 2
PF—Passenger Focus
RHC—Railway Heritage Committee
RFA—Renewable Fuels Agency

### Public Bodies Reform Programme

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 March 2011, *Official Report,* columns 9-10W, on the public bodies reform programme, what estimate he has made of the savings to his Department net of costs incurred in the assumption of additional departmental responsibilities to accrue from *(a)* the abolition of six public bodies within his Department's area of responsibility and *(b)* the change in function of one such body. [48146]

**Norman Baker** *[holding answer 21 March 2011]:* The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Maude) issued a written ministerial statement on 16 March 2011, *Official Report,* columns 9-10W, updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that Government Departments estimate cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies reform over the spending review period.

The Department for Transport provided estimated net administrative savings from reform of its public bodies to the Cabinet Office for inclusion in the 16 March announcement. These figures are subject to ongoing refinement as the detail of the changes to all bodies has not yet been finalised, but anticipated overall net administrative savings are around £21 million over the spending review period (2011-12 to 2014-15). This figure takes account of the cost of additional departmental responsibilities as a result of the changes.

### Fuels: Prices

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has made an assessment of the effect of rising oil prices on the take-up of hybrid vehicles. [47846]

**Norman Baker:** There are many factors which affect the take-up of hybrid and other low carbon vehicles. These include: EU regulations on $CO_2$ from cars, vehicle excise duty rates, the company car tax regime, as well as oil prices as reflected in the price of fuel at the pump.

The recent spending review announced that the Government have made provision of over £400 million for measures to promote the uptake of ultra-low carbon vehicle technologies. These measures include support for consumer incentives, development of recharging infrastructure, and a programme of research and development work.

### Highways Agency: Finance

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate has been made of the level of savings arising from better management of Highways Agency contracts in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15. [46641]

**Mike Penning:** I refer the hon. Member to my answers of 16 March 2011, *Official Report,* columns 348-9W and 22 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 1056W, which explain that savings are implicit in future year indicative budgets which are soon to be published in the 2011-12 Highways Agency Business Plan at the end of this month. A key enabler to successful delivery of the efficiency savings will be the introduction of new contracts as well as continued effectiveness of contract management. At this stage, it is difficult to separate the future efficiencies gained through contract management between the two tools.

The Highways Agency is working on plans, including improvements in contract management, to make the necessary reductions in expenditure within the spending review period ending in 2014-15.

### Local Government Finance

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish his Department's impact assessment in respect of the reduction in local government resource grants. [46337]

**Norman Baker:** The Department for Transport did not prepare an impact assessment in respect of the reduction in local government resource grants. Spending proposals do not generally require an impact assessment, as they are developed through a business case process. Further information on business case process can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/data_greenbook_business.htm

In addition, the equality impact assessment undertaken by the Department for the local authority finance simplification undertaken as part of the spending review is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/adobepdf/165220-/equalityia.pdf

### Railways: Construction

**Christopher Pincher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people *(a)* have applied for the Exceptional Hardship Fund (EHS) associated with High Speed Two and *(b)* have been approved for the EHS in (i) the UK and (ii) Tamworth constituency to date. [47829]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** The Exceptional Hardship Scheme has, as of 16 March, received 154 applications. Decisions have been taken on 123 of them. 31 applications have been accepted so far and 92 applications have been rejected. Of the 31 accepted applications, two were for properties in the Tamworth constituency.

### Railways: Crime

**Lorely Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many incidents of crime at each rail station in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Solihull constituency were reported in each of the last five years. [47994]

**Mrs Villiers:** This information is not held by the Department for Transport, but by the British Transport Police who can be contacted at:

25 Camden Road
London
NW1 9LN

or by e-mail at:

parliament@btp.pnn.police.uk

### Railways: Electrification

**Geoffrey Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for how long he expects the Severn Tunnel to be closed during electrification of the Great Western Main Line; and at what stage during the electrification process this will take place. [46316]

**Mrs Villiers:** Network Rail has confirmed that the Severn Tunnel is capable of accommodating electrification, and is continuing to develop a detailed solution for provision of wiring through the tunnel that is both cost effective and keeps passenger disruption to a minimum. That process is ongoing and, until further work is completed, it is not possible to confirm the extent or timing of the tunnel works.

### Railways: Fares

**Lorely Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the level of fare evasion on passenger rail services operated by London Midland Trains for each of the last five years. [47992]

**Mrs Villiers:** London Midland has provided information to officials in the Department for Transport on the level of ticketless travel as a percentage of passenger revenue. No information is available as to what proportion of ticketless travel on London Midland is due to sustained evasion of fares by passengers. London Midland commenced operation in November 2007.

London Midland has provided the following data:

| | *Ticketless travel as percentage of passenger revenue* |
|---|---|
| *2008* | |
| April to June | 1.7 |
| July to September | 1.4 |
| October to December | 1.4 |
| *2009* | |
| April to June | 1.6 |
| July to September | 1.8 |
| October to December | 1.6 |
| *2010* | |
| January to March | 1.9 |
| April to June | 1.4 |
| July to September | 2.2 |
| October to December | 2.1 |

*Source*:
London Midland

### Railways: Greater London

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Mayor for London and *(b)* train operators on the overcharging of passengers using Oyster pay-as-you-go cards; and if he will make a statement. [46981]

**Mrs Villiers:** There have been no discussions between the Department for Transport and the Mayor of London on this matter. The operation of the Oyster pay-as-you-go system is a matter for the Mayor and Transport for London. The hon. Member may wish to write to the managing director of London Underground and London Rail, Mike Brown, at:

London Underground
55 Broadway
London
NW1 3HG

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passengers using Oyster pay-as-you-go cards have been overcharged on London rail services in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [46983]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Department for Transport does not hold this information. This is a matter for the Mayor and Transport for London. The hon. Member may wish to write to the managing director of London Underground and London Rail, Mike Brown, at:

London Underground
55 Broadway
London
NW1 3HG

### Renewables Fuel Agency

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what *(a)* costs will be incurred and *(b)* savings will be made from abolishing the Renewables Fuel Agency in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12, (iii) 2012-13, (iv) 2013-14 and (v) 2014-15; [46478]

(2) what residual functions will remain following the abolition of the Renewables Fuel Agency; which organisation will carry out each such function; what the estimated costs of each such function are; and what transfer of funds will be made to each organisation to carry out each such function; [46479]

(3) what the budget for the Renewables Fuel Agency *(a)* was in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11 and *(b)* will be in (A) 2011-12, (B) 2012-13, (C) 2013-14 and (D) 2014-15. [46679]

**Norman Baker:** The Renewable Fuels Agency's (RFA) budget in 2009-10 was £1.43 million and in 2010-11 it was £1.75 million.

On 14 October 2010, as part of the cross-Government review of Public Bodies, it was announced that the Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA) would be abolished and its functions transferred to Department for Transport (DfT).

To manage this process as smoothly as possible, on 24 February 2011 the Office of the Renewable Fuels Agency (Dissolution and Transfer of Functions) Order 2011 was laid. This Order will dissolve the RFA and transfer its functions to the Secretary of State for Transport on 1 April, to align with the financial year break. From 2011-12, budgeting for the functions previously carried out by the RFA will be included in Department for Transport business planning.

The Order transfers all the functions of the RFA and will deliver administrative efficiencies without compromise to the important regulatory role that the RFA currently provides. It introduces no new business costs. Exact future costs and savings are inherently uncertain, however, transitional costs are currently estimated at £100,000 and these would likely be incurred in financial years 2011-12 and 2012-13. We intend that by 2014-15, the cost of administering the renewable transport fuels obligation scheme will be reduced by around a third in real terms against the current baseline.

### Rescue Services: Helicopters

**Mr Donohoe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had on the provision of search and rescue helicopters. [47889]

**Mike Penning:** Recent discussions have been held with officials, who are conducting a series of discussions with search and rescue industry representatives.

**Mr Donohoe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had on potential long-term procurement options for search and rescue helicopters; and if he will make a statement. [47891]

**Mike Penning:** Recent discussions have been held with officials, who are subsequently conducting a series of discussions with search and rescue industry representatives to establish what short term procurement options may be available for the future provision of search and rescue helicopters. We have yet to engage with industry on long term options. We are considering those options and will make a statement in due course.

### Roads: Bedfordshire

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport by what date he expects Central Bedfordshire Council to have received additional funding to repair potholes on roads in its area; and how much it will receive. [48131]

**Norman Baker** *[holding answer 21 March 2011]*: The Secretary of State for Transport wrote to leaders of all local highway authorities in England on 23 February 2011 setting out the conditions for exceptional additional funding to repair damage caused by the severe winter weather. This requested that authorities responded by 16 March 2011 confirming their acceptance of these conditions.

We are now collating the responses received and expect to inform authorities, including central Bedfordshire, of their allocations shortly. As we have explained, we intend to distribute the funds formulaically based on the Department's existing highways maintenance capital funding formula which takes into account road length and condition.

### Roads: Noise

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to ensure that resurfacing of the A19 near Elwick, Teesside is undertaken with materials that help to reduce the noise of traffic. [47904]

**Mike Penning:** The A19 in the vicinity of Elwick forms part of the A168/A19 Design Build Finance Operate contract and is operated and maintained by Autolink Concessionaires (A19) Ltd on behalf of the Highways Agency. The contract requires Autolink to maintain the road to standards that existed at the time the contract was signed in 1996. These standards did not require the use of low-noise surfacing materials.

The northbound carriageway of the A19 is being resurfaced between the A689 and A179 junctions, commencing on 19 June 2011 for a period of approximately three weeks. Autolink Concessionaires do not propose to use low-noise surfacing for these maintenance works.

### Severn River Crossings: Tolls

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on arrangements for collection of Severn Crossing tolls after the end of the current concession. [48178]

**Mike Penning:** There have not been any recent discussions held between the Secretary of State for Transport or Ministers, with the Welsh Assembly Government on the Severn Crossing Tolls.

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has any plans to transfer responsibility for the collection of tolls on the Severn Crossing to the Welsh Assembly Government after the end of the current concession. [48179]

**Mike Penning:** No decisions have been made regarding the future of the Severn Crossings once the concession ends in 2017.

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether revenue from tolls on the Severn Crossing will be hypothecated for any purpose after the end of the current concession. [48180]

**Mike Penning:** No decisions have been made regarding the future of the Severn crossings once the concession ends in 2017.

### West Coast Railway Line: Rolling Stock

**Mr Brady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 106W, on the West Coast Railway Line: rolling stock, what assessment his Department has made of the costs and benefits of the introduction of double deck passenger trains on the West Coast Main Line compared to those of constructing a new high speed rail line. [47861]

**Mrs Villiers** *[holding answer 18 March 2011]*: In 2007, Network Rail released the Preliminary Evaluation of Double Deck and Extra Long Train Operations report that concluded that the costs of introducing double deck passenger trains on the existing West Coast Main Line outweighed the benefits. The introduction of double deck trains was dismissed at the preliminary sift of the options-to-evaluate stage of the High Speed Rail Strategic Alternatives study because of the prohibitive costs identified in the Network Rail report.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Burma: Elections

**Valerie Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the conduct of the recent elections in Burma. [48385]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** Although voting on the day was calm, the UK Government received widespread reports of severe vote manipulation, particularly through the use of additional advanced votes after the count had officially closed and coercion of voters. Moreover, we have serious misgivings over the regime's official results. The Election Commission initially reported that in some constituencies voter turnout exceeded 100% and in Kachin state where the regime had banned the elections, two pro-government candidates were declared winners.

Before any votes were cast, 25% of seats in the legislature were reserved for the military, the regime's proxy political party received privileged access to state resources, and Aung San Suu Kyi was excluded from the process.

Under such circumstances, there is no doubt that elections were not free, fair or inclusive.

### Council of Ministers

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the forthcoming UK Chairmanship of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers; what programmes, conferences and activities he has planned for the UK Chairmanship; and if he will make a statement. [48392]

**Mr Lidington:** Programmes, conferences and activities for the UK Chairmanship of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers are currently under discussion. No costings have yet been agreed. We will formally announce our Chairmanship priorities at our handover meeting with the outgoing Chairmanship (Ukraine). This will probably take place in early November 2011.

### Democratic Republic of Congo: Elections

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support his Department is providing to the Democratic Republic of Congo in preparation for its presidential and parliamentary elections. [48388]

**Mr Bellingham:** Our ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has met Government figures including the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister to press for elections to be free, fair and well administered. Our ambassador has also recently met the leaders of the main opposition parties and our embassy continues to monitor the human rights situation pertaining to freedom of expression around the elections.

Under UN Security Council resolution 1925, the United Nations Organisation Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) is mandated to provide logistical and technical support for the elections. The UK's assessed contribution to MONUSCO is around £62 million per year.

The Department for International Development is one of the major donors to the 2007-13 electoral cycle. This contribution is focused on voter registration, strengthening the electoral commission, as well as funding civil society to provide education. It is aimed at ensuring that everyone has the right to vote, and encouraging as wide a participation as possible.

### Iran: Politics and Government

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the removal of Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani from a clerical assembly in Iran; and what assessment he has made of the effect of that removal on the political situation in that country. [47765]

**Mr Hague:** We assess that Ayatollah Rafsanjani's decision to relinquish the chairmanship of the Assembly of Experts will not have a significant impact on Iran's internal and external policies, which remain a serious concern for the international community.

### Iran: Sanctions

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on the effectiveness of the Iranian sanctions programme imposed by the international community in meeting its objectives; and if he will make a statement. [47692]

**Alistair Burt:** We, and our E3+3 partners, are gravely concerned by the Iranian nuclear programme. We continue to pursue a diplomatic solution to the issue, through the dual track policy of pressure and engagement.

Sanctions are having an impact and have slowed the programme. But Iran has yet to resolve our concerns on meeting its obligations. So we believe further pressure will be required.

### Japan: Natural Disasters

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Japanese counterpart in relation to the recent earthquake and tsunami. [47390]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs spoke on the telephone to the Japanese Foreign Minister on 12 and 13 March to discuss the situation following the earthquake and tsunami to offer UK assistance and to express his condolences.

The Secretary of State also held a meeting with the Japanese Foreign Minister at the G8 Foreign Ministers in Paris on 14 March and reiterated the Government's offer of assistance.

### Libya

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff of his Department have been *(a)* sent to and *(b)* evacuated from Libya in the last three weeks. [46709]

**Alistair Burt:** In order to assist the recent evacuation of British nationals from Libya, in the period up to 28 February we deployed five Rapid Deployment Teams, in total 26 staff, to reinforce the approximately 80 Foreign and Commonwealth Office employees based in our embassy in Tripoli. Since then, a sixth Rapid Deployment Team has been deployed. As a result of the suspension in operations at our embassy on 26 February 2011, all of the British embassy staff not employed locally in Libya have left. A small team of officials recently dispatched to eastern Libya was withdrawn on 6 March 2011.

### Libya: British Nationals Abroad

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made provision for UK nationals who have elected to stay in Libya to receive consular advice should they require it. [48118]

**Alistair Burt:** In the light of the deteriorating situation in Libya we have temporarily suspended the operations of our embassy in Tripoli. The Turkish Government are now temporarily representing British consular interests in Libya. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advises against all travel to Libya. We believe that the vast majority of British nationals who want to leave have now left Libya, through commercial means, Government charters and military evacuations. We urge any remaining British nationals in Libya to leave as soon as they can safely do so and not to rely on further assisted evacuations. We have encouraged British nationals in Libya to register with us to allow us to maintain contact with them. We have maintained contact with all British nationals we know of who have chosen to stay in Libya to advise them of exit options and assist them should they wish to leave.

### Libya: Politics and Government

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the decision was taken to hold the COBR meeting on Libya on 24 February 2011. [45323]

**Mr Hague:** The decision that Cabinet Office briefing room (COBR) should meet on 24 February 2011 was taken in the early hours of 24 February 2011 on the grounds that the situation in Libya warranted it. It has met frequently since then.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office crisis centre has been staffed to cover the growing unrest in Libya from 19 February 2011. I was in frequent contact with ministerial colleagues including my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister, Secretary of State for Defence and Secretary of State for International Development as the situation in Libya developed.

### Mexico: Smuggling

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his US counterpart on the *(a)* sale of weapons to drugs gangs in Mexico and *(b)* importing of illegal drugs. [48390]

**Alistair Burt:** There is no record of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs discussing either topic with his US counterpart.

### Middle East: Armed Conflict

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the firing of shells by Hamas into the Eshkol region, of Israel on 19 March 2011; whether he *(a)* has taken steps and *(b)* plans to take steps in the next six months at the United Nations in respect of this issue; and if he will make a statement. [48865]

**Alistair Burt:** As I said in my statement on 21 March 2011, following the recent actions by Hamas:

> "I condemn the barrage of mortars on southern Israel from Gaza in recent days. The indiscriminate targeting of Israeli citizens, as they celebrated the Jewish festival of Purim, is unacceptable. The firing of over 50 mortars in the space of a few hours, as well as a Grad rocket on Ashkelon that caused injury and damage, signals a further, worrying escalation in the situation at a time when international efforts are focused on getting Israel and the Palestinians back to the negotiating table. Hamas must halt these strikes immediately, and rein in other militant factions in Gaza.
>
> These attacks come against the backdrop of last week's footage of Hamas security forces assaulting students and other peaceful demonstrators in Gaza. Over the weekend Hamas also targeted local and foreign media organisations. The people of Gaza, like the people across the region, have an absolute right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. Hamas should not think that while the attention of the world is elsewhere we will turn a blind eye to their actions."

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had recent discussions with the Arab League on the firing of shells and rockets by Hamas into Israel; and if he will make a statement. [48866]

**Alistair Burt:** We are in close contact with the Arab League at ministerial and official level. Recent contacts have focused on the situation in Libya. However, I have underlined our views in public on the recent mortar attacks on southern Israel.

I made the following statement on 21 March 2011:

> "I condemn the barrage of mortars on southern Israel from Gaza in recent days. The indiscriminate targeting of Israeli citizens, as they celebrated the Jewish festival of Purim, is unacceptable. The firing of over 50 mortars in the space of a few hours, as well as a Grad rocket on Ashkelon that caused injury and damage, signals a further, worrying escalation in the situation at a time when international efforts are focused on getting Israel and the Palestinians back to the negotiating table. Hamas must halt these strikes immediately, and rein in other militant factions in Gaza.
>
> These attacks come against the backdrop of last week's footage of Hamas security forces assaulting students and other peaceful demonstrators in Gaza. Over the weekend Hamas also targeted local and foreign media organisations. The people of Gaza, like the people across the region, have an absolute right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. Hamas should not think that while the attention of the world is elsewhere we will turn a blind eye to their actions."

### Middle East: Politics and Government

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of recent pro-democracy protests in *(a)* the Middle East and *(b)* North Africa; what discussions he has had at the United Nations on each such case; and if he will make a statement. [47681]

**Alistair Burt:** As the Secretary of State said on 17 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 494-83, an unprecedented wave of change is now sweeping across the Arab world. Almost every middle eastern country has been affected at the same time by demands for greater political openness and democratic freedom. In Egypt and Tunisia, it has led to new interim governments and the hope of a more democratic future. In Libya, legitimate protest has been followed by bloody civil strife at the hands of a Government willing to countenance any loss of life in order to cling to power. In each instance of instability, there have been implications for thousands of British expatriates who live and work in these countries.

Each nation involved has a distinct culture, political system and level of economic development, so whatever their futures hold, there will be no single model. However, there is clearly a common hunger for justice, accountability, political rights and economic opportunity, given that the overwhelming majority of the demonstrations that we have seen have been peaceful and staged spontaneously by ordinary citizens. Our message to all Governments of the region is that without change popular grievances will not go away. The right to peaceful protest must be respected and responded to with dialogue.

We have consistently supported the right to peaceful protest throughout all demonstrations in the middle east and north Africa. There is clearly a common desire for justice, accountability, political rights and economic opportunity. We will continue to raise our concerns with international partners and institutions.

### Palestinians: Politics and Government

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the presence of al-Qaeda in the Gaza Strip; what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the government of Israel, *(b)* the Palestinian Authority, *(c)* the government of Egypt, *(d)* the Arab League, *(e)* the government of Jordan, *(f)* his EU counterparts and *(g)* the United Nations Secretary General on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [47693]

**Alistair Burt:** I refer my hon. Friend to the response given to him on 7 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 23W.

### South Korea: Bears

**Nic Dakin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the South Korean government to seek an end to the practice of farming bears for bile. [47580]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** We consider bear bile farming to be an abhorrent practice. We are committed to promoting the conservation of wild animals worldwide, including through our membership of international agreements such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. In addition, when appropriate, we look for opportunities to raise animal welfare issues bilaterally.

### Sudan: Human Rights

**Mr Frank Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the human rights situation in Darfur. [48366]

**Mr Bellingham:** We remain concerned about serious ongoing violations of human rights in Darfur and the increase in violence, which has resulted in an estimated 43,000 civilians being displaced in the last two months. We have raised our concerns about human rights abuses with the Government of Sudan, including the need to end impunity for crime committed in Darfur and to allow full and unhindered access for vital humanitarian work in Darfur.

### Syria

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the outcome was of his recent visit to Syria; whether he discussed *(a)* the progress of and *(b)* Syrian support for the Middle East peace process with his Syrian counterpart; and if he will make a statement. [48087]

**Alistair Burt:** During his recent visit to Syria the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs covered a wide range of issues, including the need for progress on political reform, human rights and trade. He also discussed the middle east peace process with President Assad and Foreign Minister Muallem. The Secretary of State highlighted our commitment to comprehensive peace, our undertaking to do all that we can to that end and our view that all those in the region have a role to play.

The United Kingdom will continue to press for progress on the middle east peace process. The situation across the middle east demands that, and I recently discussed progress with President Abbas. We want to see a resumption of negotiations based on clear parameters supported by the international community: 1967 borders with equivalent land swaps, appropriate security arrangements, Jerusalem as the capital of both states and a just solution for refugees.

### Syria: Nuclear Power

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of Syria's nuclear programme; what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Government of Israel, *(b)* the Palestinian Authority, *(c)* the Government of Egypt, *(d)* the Arab League, *(e)* the Government of Jordan, *(f)* his EU counterparts and *(g)* the United Nations Secretary General on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [47699]

**Alistair Burt:** The UK strongly supports the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) investigations on Syria and welcomes the recent report by the Director General on Syria's nuclear activities. It is important that Syria co-operates with this international body and ensures that the IAEA can complete its investigations.

We urge Syria to comply with the IAEA's requests to be given further access to Syria's nuclear sites, and to provide documentation on these sites. We believe it is in Syria's interests to provide full transparency in order to allow the agency to investigate effectively.

We discuss the issue of Syria's nuclear programme regularly within the EU, but have not recently raised bilaterally with the countries listed.

### Third Sector

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what account he has taken of the compact between the Government and civil society in policy development. [42597]

**Alistair Burt:** We take our relationships with civil society organisations seriously and engage with them throughout the world on foreign policy issues. Working with civil society is central to the way we deliver policy and is fundamental to the work of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Some examples of our engagement with civil society organisations, in line with the compact, include working with the non-governmental organisation (NGO) Control Arms Coalition (this includes Oxfam, Amnesty International and Saferworld) on trying to secure the Arms Trade treaty; holding round table events with NGOs to listen to their concerns ahead of visits or events, including recent events on China, Burma and Sudan; and we are undertaking a programme of outreach events around the UK to further develop our links with civil society organisations and inform them of foreign policy aims.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) hosts the Advisory Group on Human Rights, which he established to ensure that he receives the best possible information about human rights challenges and benefits from outside advice on the conduct of our policy. The group's members are eminent individuals with a broad range of human rights experience, drawn from non-governmental organisations, the legal and academic communities and international bodies.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department provided to each charity it funds in each of the last five years; and how much he has allocated for funding to each such charity in each of the next five years. [48274]

**Alistair Burt:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not allocate any central funding to specific charities, other than the British Council, through an annual grant in aid. The details of this funding are published in our annual accounts and also annual parliamentary estimates. The British Council is an executive non-departmental public body, a public corporation (in accounting terms) and also a charity.

We do use charities as project implementers around the world to help deliver UK foreign policy objectives, where they have the necessary skills or experience.

Budgets in the FCO are devolved to over 260 posts and details of such payments to charities are not held centrally. As a result, this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The FCO does provide office space and services, but no financial support, to the Pimpernel Trust in the UK. It is a registered charity which helps retired members of the diplomatic service.

### Turks and Caicos Islands: Nature Conservation

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding his Department allocated to the Turks and Caicos Natural Trust in each of the last five years. [48036]

**Mr Bellingham:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has allocated the sum of £20,000 to the Turks and Caicos Islands National Trust in the last five years. The project was approved in 2006 to support restoration work following hurricane damage.

### Venezuela: Trade Unions

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the situation of trade unionists in Venezuela. [47558]

**Mr Hague:** Our embassy in Venezuela, together with the EU delegation in Caracas, continue to monitor trade union issues. Trade union issues are also the subject of reports by Venezuelan non-governmental organisations, international human rights organisations and international organisations such as the InterAmerican Commission of Human Rights. Although some organisations have welcomed recent increases in the minimum wage and the high level of job security in Venezuela, some recent reports have expressed concern about threats against trade union leaders, restrictions on freedom of association and collective bargaining rights.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Burma: Overseas Aid

**Valerie Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department had discussions with Aung San Suu Kyi on its policy on aid to Burma. [48351]

**Mr O'Brien:** Officials from the Department for International Development (DFID) and Her Majesty's ambassador to Burma are in regular contact with Aung San Suu Kyi and her party, the National League for Democracy. Recently DFID officials have informed Aung San Suu Kyi about the UK's plans on aid to Burma and sought her views.

**Valerie Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department provides funding to the Women's League of Burma. [48386]

**Mr O'Brien:** The Department for International Development (DFID) is providing funding to one member of the Women's League of Burma, the Shan Women's Action Network (SWAN). In 2010, DFID provided £76,413 to SWAN to improve health, education and livelihoods, and to empower women and promote their rights, in communities displaced by conflict along the Thailand-Burma border. DFID does not provide funding to the Women's League of Burma itself.

### Third Sector

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department provided to each charity it funds in each of the last five years; and how much he has allocated for funding to each such charity in each of the next five years. [48277]

**Mr O'Brien:** The Department for International Development (DFID) supports non-government organisations (NGOs) through a range of centrally managed funds and through DFID's country programmes. Details of funds provided to UK-based NGOs in 2009-10 through these different channels can be found in table 19 of Statistics on International Development 2010, which is available in the Library of the House and on the DFID website. Details of funding to NGOs based in other countries and the specific purpose and conditions attached to all funding to NGOs cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs. However, further details of all DFID projects, including those delivered by NGOs, can be found on the project database on our website;

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Finance-and-performance/Aid-Statistics/

Data for 2010-11 will be available in October 2011.

Final decisions are still being taken for funding for 2011-12 and beyond. DFID has recently introduced the Aid Transparency Guarantee, which commits the Government to making our aid fully transparent to citizens in both the UK and overseas, increasing accessibility and feedback, and pushing international partners to follow this UK lead. Under this guarantee we will publish full and detailed information on our projects and programmes on our website—in a standardised, accessible format so that it can be freely used by third parties.

### Turks and Caicos Islands: Nature Conservation

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has allocated to the Turks and Caicos Natural Trust in each of the last five years. [48035]

**Mr O'Brien:** The Department for International Development (DFID) allocated a total of £212,509 between June 2004 and March 2008 from the Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP) for projects implemented by the Turks and Caicos National Trust. This funding was channelled through the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum.

### World Bank: Energy

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 1094W, on development countries: energy, if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's submissions to the World Bank energy strategy review. [47967]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** I have arranged for the Department for International Development's (DFID's) input to the World Bank's energy strategy review to be placed in the Library of the House.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Average Earnings

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will estimate the average wage of employees of businesses with more than 10 employees of each *(a)* gender and *(b)* age group for those in (i) full-time and (ii) part-time employment. [48322]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking us to estimate the average wage of employees of businesses with more than 10 employees of each (a) gender and (b) age group for those in (i) full-time and (ii) part-time employment. (48322)

Average levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom.

I attach a table showing the median gross weekly earnings for full-time and part-time employees of businesses with more than 10 employees of each (a) gender and (b) age group for April 2010.

*UK median gross weekly earnings for businesses with more than 10 employees by age bands[1]: April 2010*

£

| | Full-time | | Part-time | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| 16-17[2] | *188.2 | *180.0 | *56.5 | 50.4 |
| 18-21 | 287.5 | 271.5 | 100.0 | 90.1 |
| 22-29 | 424.9 | 404.7 | 145.0 | 147.7 |
| 30-39 | 581.1 | 514.4 | 187.9 | 186.9 |
| 40-49 | 626.4 | 478.5 | 189.0 | 183.9 |
| 50-59 | 592.7 | 448.1 | 198.9 | 180.7 |
| 60+ | 489.8 | 392.5 | 163.2 | 145.0 |

[1] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.

[2] Figures for 16 to 17-year-olds include employees not on adult rates of pay.

*Guide to quality:*

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an average of 200 with a CV of 5%, we would expect the population average to be within the range 180 to 220.

*Key:*

CV <= 5%

* CV >5% and <=10%

*Source:*

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), Office for National Statistics

## Census

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what plans he has for the presentation of data resulting from those who have chosen to write in a religion on their 2011 Census form. [47622]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to respond to your recent question asking what the plans are for the presentation of data resulting from those who have chosen to write in a religion on their 2011 Census form. [47622]

The ONS is currently consulting with users on the main set of statistical outputs designed for the 2011 Census (including religion) to ensure it reflects user needs and meets expectations. The current proposal lists twenty-eight tables relating to religion with cross-tabulations against other variables such as age, sex, health and occupation, and the religion categories presented in these tables include write-in responses. The tables will be available at different levels of geography down to Census outputs areas (approximately 175,000 areas in England and Wales consisting of an average of 125 residents each).

The 2011 Census aims to take action to improve outputs (compared to 2001) relating to minority groups who are often captured in written responses including religion. The current consultation refers directly to this and provides users with the opportunity to advise ONS of their requirements for such statistics.

Details of the consultation and the current proposed list of table layouts can be found at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/consultations/open-consultations/2011-output-consultation---main-statistical-outputs---second-round/index.html

## Charities: Finance

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which charities applied for but did not receive funding from the Transition Fund. [48473]

**Mr Hurd:** There was an early tranche of 18 Transition Fund awards made on 15 February and a further tranche of 183 awards made on 22 March. These awards will be followed by many more in April and May. We do not publish details of unsuccessful applicants.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much has been allocated from the Transition Fund *(a)* to charities operating in each region and *(b)* to each type of charity. [48474]

**Mr Hurd:** To date there have been 201 awards from the Transition Fund. The amount per region and the type of services that these organisations deliver are set out in the tables. These awards are the first of many; further awards will be made in April and May.

| *Region* | *Number of awards* | *Total amount awarded (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| East of England | 10 | 938,190 |
| East Midlands | 20 | 1,191,643 |
| London | 48 | 4,952,471 |
| North East | 17 | 1,241,807 |
| North West | 21 | 1,589,516 |
| South East | 13 | 1,027,173 |
| South West | 31 | 2,535,546 |
| West Midlands | 24 | 1,655,836 |
| Yorks and Humberside | 17 | 1,396,480 |
| Total | 201 | 16,528,662 |

| *Service area* | *Instances[1]* |
|---|---|
| Health | 117 |
| Education | 115 |
| Children | 133 |
| Employment | 64 |
| Homelessness | 44 |
| Offenders | 34 |
| Debt and legal advice | 39 |
| Total | 546 |

[1] Many applicants delivered a range of services, so these figures do not equal to the total number of awards.

## Charity Commission: Manpower

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people the Charity Commission employed in each of the last five years; and how many people he expects it to employ in each of the next five years. [48253]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission for England and Wales. I have asked the Commission to reply.

*Letter from Sam Younger, dated 21 March 2011:*

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question (48253), how many people the Charity Commission employed in each of the last five years; and how many people he expects it to employ in each of the next five years [48253].

The average Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) staff in post for each of the years requested is as follows:

| | FTE |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 517 |
| 2006-07 | 490 |
| 2007-08 | 471 |
| 2008-09 | 464 |
| 2009-10 | 466 |
| 2010-11 | 430 |
| 2011-12 | 387 |
| 2012-13 | 320 |
| 2013-14 | 277 |
| 2014-15 | 272 |

The projections relate to the financial years covered by the next Spending Review period. FTE in 2015/16 cannot be projected as we do not know what our funding will be in that year.

I hope this information is helpful.

## Migration

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people migrated *(a)* to and *(b)* from the UK in each of the last five years; and how many are expected to migrate (i) to and (ii) from the UK in each of the next five years. [47447]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to respond to your recent parliamentary question asking how many people migrated (a) to and (b) from the UK in each of the last five years; and how many are expected to migrate (i) to and (ii) from the UK in each of the next five years (47447).

The attached table provides both the latest published estimates of long term international migration and projections of future migration.

Long Term International Migration (LTIM) estimates are provided for the years ending mid-2006 up to and including provisional estimates for the year ending mid-2010. These are the latest available estimates and are derived from several data sources. The International Passenger Survey (IPS) migrant data provides the foundation of the LTIM estimates with adjustments for asylum seekers, people whose intentions change with regard to their length of stay, and for international migration to and from Northern Ireland.

Projections of future migration are provided from the year ending mid-2011 to the year ending mid-2016. The most recent population projections of the UK are based on the mid-year population estimates for 2008 and a set of demographic assumptions about future fertility, mortality and net migration based on analysis of trends and expert advice. The assumptions for in-migration and out-migration are by-products of this process and do not feed directly into producing projections.

The national population projections are not forecasts and do not attempt to predict the impact that future government policies, changing economic circumstances or other factors (whether in the UK or overseas) might have on demographic behaviour. However, the projections included in the table will reflect the impact of any government policy up to 2008.

Long-term international migration data produced by the ONS applies the UN definition of someone who moves from their country of previous residence for a period of at least a year, irrespective of citizenship.

*Long-term international migration estimates and projection assumptions: All migrants, United Kingdom*

*Thousand*

| *Ending June each year* | *Inflow* | *Outflow* | *Balance* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2006 | 565 | 388 | +177 |
| 2007 | 595 | 387 | +208 |
| 2008 | 571 | 375 | +196 |
| 2009 | 563 | 397 | +166 |
| 2010[1] | 572 | 346 | +226 |
| 2011[2] | 671 | 470 | +201 |
| 2012[2] | 671 | 475 | +196 |
| 2013[2] | 671 | 480 | +191 |
| 2014[2] | 671 | 485 | +186 |
| 2015[2] | 670 | 490 | +180 |
| 2016[2] | 670 | 490 | +180 |

[1] Year includes provisional estimates for 2010.

[2] 2008-based National Population Projections migration assumptions. The projections assume constant levels of annual net migration beyond 2014-15.

*Notes:*

1. From year ending mid-2011, National Population Projection assumptions have been provided. Due to the different methodology used these are not directly comparable with published migration estimates.
2. The assumed net migration is used in the production of the projections. The assumptions for in-migration and out-migration are by-products of this process and do not feed directly into producing projections. Care should be taken when interpreting these figures.

## Third Sector

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much the Department gave to the youth volunteering charity v in each of the last five years. [48240]

**Mr Hurd:** Funding levels for v, the national young volunteers service, can be found on the Cabinet Office web pages at the following url:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/cabinet-office-annual-reports-and-accounts

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent representations he has received from *(a)* Volunteering England and *(b)* Citizens Advice on the effects on the voluntary sector of recent reductions in public expenditure. [48314]

**Mr Hurd:** I meet regularly with a range of voluntary sector organisations. On 16 November 2010 I attended the England Volunteering Development Council organised by Volunteering England and heard first hand about the effects of reductions in public expenditure.

On 24 February 2011, the Office for Civil Society hosted a meeting of a number of advice providers including Citizens Advice. The information from this meeting was shared directly with me.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the position of England in international comparator tables on levels of *(a)* volunteering and *(b)* State support for the voluntary sector. [48486]

**Mr Hurd:** The Giving Green Paper, published in December 2010, cited analysis carried out by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), which suggested that the UK ranks in 29th place worldwide in terms of giving time.

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) estimates that statutory support to general charities in the UK amounted to £12.8 billion in 2007-08. The Cabinet Office has not made any assessment of how this compares internationally.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent assessment his Department has made of the level of social enterprise activity in each region. [48487]

**Mr Hurd:** The Annual Small Business Survey conducted by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, estimates that there are at least 60,000 social enterprises in the UK. The survey does not provide a regional breakdown of the level of social enterprise activity.

The Cabinet Office conducts the National Survey of Charities and Social Enterprises on a biennial basis to gather information on the activities and views of sector organisations, including social enterprises. Results from the 2010 wave of the National Survey, including regional data, are expected to be published in April 2011. The results from the 2008 survey are available at:

www.nscsesurvey.com

### Transitional Fund

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on what date the Transition Fund was *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed. [48254]

**Mr Hurd:** The Transition Fund was opened to applications on 30 November 2010 and closed on 21 January 2011.

### Unemployment: Bexley

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate he has made of the number of workless households in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Bexley. [48106]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what recent estimate has been made of the number of workless households in a) Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and b) the London borough of Bexley (48106).

The figures requested come from the Annual Population Survey (APS) household datasets. The latest data currently available is for 2009. The attached table shows estimates for Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and the London borough of Bexley.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results. These estimates are such that there is 95 per cent certainty that from all samples possible they will lie within the lower and upper bounds.

*Table 1: Number of workless households[1] in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and London borough of Bexley, January to December 2009*

*Thousand*

| | *Estimate* | *Lower bound[2]* | *Upper bound[2]* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency | 7 | 5 | 9 |
| London borough of Bexley | 15 | 12 | 18 |

[1] Households containing at least one person aged 16 to 64, where all individuals aged 16 or over are not in employment.

[2] 95% confidence interval which means that from all samples possible there would be 95% certainty that the true estimate would lie within the lower and upper bounds.

*Source:*

APS household dataset

### Voluntary Work: Young People

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he expects to establish a National Citizen Service for all ages. [48327]

**Mr Hurd:** The Government have no plans at present to widen the age range for participation in the National Citizen Service beyond young people aged 16.

### Volunteering England: Finance

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much funding was allocated to Volunteering England in each of the last five years; and how much such funding he plans to allocate in each of the next five years. [48344]

**Mr Hurd:** Cabinet Office funding to Volunteering England for 2005-06 to 2009-10 is shown in the table.

*£*

| | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Strategic funding | 1,203,200 | 1,500,000 | 1,537,500 | 1,575,900 | 1,615,300 |
| Project grant | 839,938 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Management of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (ex VAT) | 173,410 | 177,745 | 182,189 | 17,375 | 0 |
| Total | 2,216,548 | 1,677,745 | 1,719,689 | 1,593,275 | 1,615,300 |

Through the Office for Civil Society strategic partner transition programme Volunteering England will receive £500,000 in 2011-12, £375,000 in 2012-13 and £250, 000 in 2013-14.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Crime: Devon

**Dr Wollaston:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of levels of *(a)* violent crime and *(b)* domestic violence in South Devon in each of the last three years. [47530]

**James Brokenshire:** The Home Office collects data on violence against the person offences recorded by police forces in England and Wales. Data are collected at police force area level but can be broken down to local authority, Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and Basic Command Unit (BCU) levels. None of these levels have an area exactly corresponding to South Devon, however data are provided for South Hams alongside the total figures for England and Wales for each year from 2007-08 to 2009-10 in Table A.

Data on domestic violence are collected via the British Crime Survey but these can only be broken down to regional level. Data for the South West Region are provided in Table B. Further information can be found in 'Homicides, Firearms Offences and Intimate Violence 2009-10' at the following link:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs11/hosb0111.pdf

Data on police recorded offences of domestic violence are collected but cannot be broken down beyond police force area level. Data for Devon and Cornwall police force area for 2007-08 to 2009-10 are provided in Table C.

*Table A: Recorded violence against the person offences in South Hams and England and Wales, 2007-08 to 2009-10*

| *Area* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
|---|---|---|---|
| South Hams | 634 | 554 | 502 |
| England and Wales | 961,099 | 903,447 | 871,712 |

*Table B: Percentage of adults aged 16 to 59 who were victims of domestic abuse in the last year, 2007-08 to 2009-10 BCS*

| | | | | *Statistically significant change:* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| - | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2007-08 to 2008-09* | *2008-09 to 2009-10* |
| South West | 5.8 | 4.1 | 4.7 | • | — |

*Note:*
To enable comparisons over time, these figures do not include stalking as questions on stalking were not included in the 2007-08 BCS.

*Table C: Reported domestic violence incidents[1], Devon and Cornwall police, 2007-08 to 2009-10*

| | *Number of reported domestic violence incidents* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 23,789 |
| 2008-09 | 25,872 |
| 2009-10 | 25,659 |

[1] All data are provisional and unverified.

## Detention Centres: Children

**Steve McCabe:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what date she expects to end the practice of detaining the children of failed asylum seekers. [46734]

**Damian Green:** On 16 December 2010, the Government announced a new package to deliver our commitment to end the detention of children for immigration purposes and the immediate closure to children of the family unit at the Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre. A new approach to managing family returns has been developed which places far greater emphasis on engagement with families and aims to encourage families to leave without the need for enforcement action if they are found to have no legal right to be in the UK.

Most elements of this new process went live across the UK on 1 March 2011, including a new independent Family Returns Panel to advise the UK Border Agency on how to ensure the return of those families who do not take up the opportunities to leave under their own steam. A range of options has been developed to provide sufficient flexibility for a tailored approach to each family.

As a backstop, a new option of pre-departure accommodation is being developed for use when other options for ensuring return have failed or are not appropriate. This will have a secure perimeter but families will be allowed to leave the premises with permission after a suitable risk assessment. It will have an entirely different look and feel to an immigration removal centre with more privacy and strictly time-limited stays. Barnardo's will deliver the key welfare, safeguarding and support services. We expect this to open in the summer.

The small number of family rooms at Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centre may be used in place of the new pre-departure accommodation until May. After May, Tinsley House will only be used for those few families who are refused entry to the UK at the border and need to be held for a short time prior to their return or for criminal and other high-risk families who could not be accommodated safely in the pre-departure accommodation.

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will introduce a formal time limit on the detention of children in Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centre; [47782]

(2) if she will introduce a formal time limit for children to be housed in open accommodation and pre-departure accommodation facilities. [47783]

**Damian Green:** A new approach to managing family returns has been developed and was introduced on 1 March. It aims to encourage families to leave without the need for enforcement action if they are found to have no legal right to be in the UK.

Where enforcement action does need to be taken, a range of options has been developed to ensure the safe return of families. These options include open accommodation and, as a backstop when other options for ensuring return have failed or are not appropriate, pre-departure accommodation. A small number of family rooms at Tinsley House immigration removal centre may be used in place of the new pre-departure accommodation until May. After May, Tinsley House will be used only for those few families who are refused entry to the UK at the border and need to be held for a short time prior to their return or for criminal and other high-risk families who could not be accommodated safely in the pre-departure accommodation.

Families will enter open accommodation on a voluntary basis and will be entirely free to come and go during their stay. Families will only enter open accommodation where their return can be delivered within 72 hours of the family's arrival there, or within five working days for Third Country Unit or Non Suspensive Appeal cases. If the return fails, the family may remain in open accommodation, but their stay will not exceed a maximum of 28 days. Stays in pre-departure accommodation and in Tinsley House will be strictly time-limited: the normal maximum will be 72 hours, which may be extended in exceptional circumstances to a maximum of seven days with ministerial authorisation.

Other than in border cases, families will enter open accommodation, pre-departure accommodation and Tinsley House only after advice has been sought from a new independent Family Returns Panel.

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many families have been separated when one parent is held in immigration detention while their children or spouses stay in the community for the purposes of immigration control; and how many such families were single parent families where the parent detained was the primary or sole care giver in each of the last five years; [47798]

(2) in how many cases where children were cared for in fostering arrangements or by another parent while their parent was in immigration detention the UK Border Agency has information on whether the child's care arrangements gave rise to child protection concerns which were identified by children's services; and of such cases in how many instances were child protection concerns identified. [47784]

**Damian Green:** The information requested is not recorded centrally by the UK Border Agency and could be obtained only through examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost. However, in response to the Family Removals: Thematic Inspection report by the Independent Chief Inspector of the UK Border Agency, the UK Border Agency has committed to improving the management information held on families.

The UK Border Agency takes its responsibilities for safeguarding children seriously and where possible ensures that families remain together. Typically, separations would take place only in cases where a member of the family is also a former foreign national prisoner and a decision has been made to maintain their detention pending deportation. Under the new arrangements for managing family returns, families without any criminal history would only be separated in exceptional circumstances and after advice had been sought from the independent Family Returns Panel.

## Foreign Nationals

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* Brazilian, *(b)* Russian, *(c)* Indian and *(d)* Chinese nationals resident in the UK. [48338]

**Mr Hurd:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to respond to your question asking the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of (a) Brazilian, (b) Russian, (c) Indian and (d) Chinese nationals resident in the UK. [48338].

The Office for National Statistics collects data on nationality from the Annual Population Survey (APS) which is a household survey of residents of the UK. It should be noted the survey does not include people living in most types of communal establishment. The latest estimates available are for the 12 month period of July 2009 to June 2010 and these are shown in Table 1 below.

*Table 1: Estimated population resident in the United Kingdom, by selected nationalities July 2009-June 2010*

*Thousand*

| *Nationality* | *Estimate* | *CI+/-* |
|---|---|---|
| Brazil | 40 | 9 |
| China | 104 | 14 |
| India | 322 | 24 |
| Russia | 21 | 6 |

*Note:*
'CI'—Confidence Interval
*Source:*
Annual Population Survey (APS), ONS

## Human Trafficking

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to ensure that police receive adequate *(a)* funding and *(b)* training to be able to recognise and deal with cases of human trafficking. [48530]

**Damian Green:** Combating human trafficking is part of core police business. All new police officers receive mandatory training on trafficking and existing officers have access to awareness material.

## Immigration: Correspondence

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* letters, *(b)* emails and *(c)* other items of correspondence her Department has received on immigration issues in the last 12 months. [47440]

**Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency does not routinely collect statistics on the number of inquiries made by members of the public and these could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However figures are published annually by the Cabinet Office on inquiries from Members of Parliament. In 2009 the UK Border Agency received 66,320 inquiries by letter or e-mail. The figures for 2010 will be published in due course.

## Sexual Offences: Males

**Mr Ward:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will *(a)* assess the adequacy of provision of specialist support for males who have been subject to sexual violence and *(b)* take steps to increase such provision. [47168]

**Lynne Featherstone** *[holding answer 16 March 2011]:* The Secretary of State for the Home Department has confirmed that Home Office funding of more than £28 million will be available over four years to support victims of sexual and domestic violence including male victims of sexual violence. Of this, £1.72 million will be available each year on a stable basis to support independent sexual violence advisers in both the specialist voluntary sector and in SARCs.

## Traffic Wardens

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* traffic enforcement officers, *(b)* traffic wardens and *(c)* council parking attendants were operating in each police force area in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [47793]

**James Brokenshire:** The latest available data are provided in the tables which show the number of full-time equivalent traffic wardens employed by the police in each police force area from 1996-97 to 2009-10. The tables also contain the number of full-time equivalent police officers with a traffic function in each police force area from 2002-03 to 2009-10. Figures prior to 2002-03 are not available.

The number of traffic wardens employed by the police has declined substantially in recent years. This reflects the increasing role of local authorities in parking control. However, figures for council parking attendants are not provided as the Home Office does not collect statistics on local authority employed staff.

*Police officer traffic function[1] (FTE)[2] in England and Wales as at 31 March[4, 5]. England and Wales*

| | | | | | | | | *Traffic function* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2002-03* | *2003-04[3]* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
| Avon Police force and Somerset | 216 | 222 | 228 | 215 | 148 | 160 | 168 | 157 |
| Bedfordshire | 75 | 80 | 80 | 81 | 68 | 65 | 56 | 57 |
| Cambridgeshire | 85 | 99 | 101 | 99 | 96 | 90 | 99 | 101 |
| Cheshire | 194 | 200 | 194 | 85 | 91 | 94 | 88 | 90 |
| Cleveland | 64 | 73 | 2 | 61 | 72 | 104 | 108 | 115 |
| Cumbria | 107 | 110 | 108 | 111 | 114 | 99 | 88 | 86 |
| Derbyshire | 107 | 121 | 116 | 119 | 110 | 109 | 89 | 88 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 192 | 198 | 211 | 215 | 225 | 232 | 236 | 239 |
| Dorset | 91 | 86 | 82 | 81 | 80 | 78 | 79 | 76 |
| Durham | 111 | 119 | 108 | 105 | 100 | 107 | 104 | 96 |
| Essex | 241 | 242 | 243 | 243 | 231 | 219 | 222 | 257 |
| Gloucestershire | 62 | 66 | 67 | 73 | 67 | 67 | 67 | 65 |
| Greater Manchester | 406 | 392 | 359 | 342 | 352 | 338 | 315 | 310 |
| Hampshire | 248 | 246 | 244 | 240 | 237 | 214 | 187 | 181 |
| Hertfordshire | 150 | 151 | 149 | 149 | 145 | 152 | 151 | 139 |
| Humberside | 123 | 119 | 225 | 181 | 100 | 104 | 97 | 116 |
| Kent | 104 | — | 122 | 116 | 109 | 122 | 138 | 138 |
| Lancashire | 198 | 187 | 190 | 197 | 184 | 180 | 181 | 171 |
| Leicestershire | 92 | 95 | 85 | 77 | 72 | 74 | 85 | 86 |
| Lincolnshire | 90 | 89 | 96 | 102 | 100 | 92 | 86 | 84 |
| London, City of | 24 | 24 | 28 | 24 | 23 | 26 | 23 | 30 |
| Merseyside | 125 | 119 | 115 | 138 | 150 | 152 | 167 | 164 |
| Metropolitan Police | 583 | 592 | 1,029 | 603 | 611 | 612 | 290 | 297 |
| Norfolk | 120 | 121 | 107 | 112 | 110 | 118 | 109 | 102 |
| Northamptonshire | 70 | 71 | 65 | 63 | 63 | 60 | 68 | 68 |
| Northumbria | 245 | 253 | 165 | 167 | 172 | 165 | 164 | 189 |
| North Yorkshire | 151 | 138 | 101 | 97 | 99 | 105 | 103 | 99 |
| Nottinghamshire | 26 | 121 | 133 | 134 | 139 | 144 | 139 | 47 |
| South Yorkshire | 180 | 127 | 134 | 141 | 143 | 144 | 135 | 130 |
| Staffordshire | 50 | 49 | 58 | 28 | 35 | 34 | 30 | 67 |
| Suffolk | 68 | 72 | 76 | 80 | 77 | 81 | 72 | 67 |
| Surrey | 108 | 110 | 107 | 99 | 87 | 98 | 97 | 100 |
| Sussex | 164 | 163 | 163 | 160 | 169 | 160 | 166 | 159 |
| Thames Valley | 259 | 259 | 245 | 236 | 237 | 250 | 249 | 228 |
| Warwickshire | 103 | 103 | 93 | 97 | 93 | 93 | 14 | 10 |
| West Mercia | 292 | 115 | 117 | 116 | 129 | 128 | 119 | 101 |
| West Midlands | 384 | 405 | 393 | 401 | 383 | 352 | 351 | 351 |
| West Yorkshire | 320 | 314 | 317 | 343 | 324 | 283 | 297 | 315 |
| Wiltshire | 91 | 96 | 93 | 13 | 89 | 91 | 85 | 83 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 136 | 105 | 141 | 143 | 136 | 126 | 94 | 84 |
| Gwent | 93 | 95 | 96 | 102 | 95 | 57 | 49 | 63 |
| North Wales | 115 | 114 | 76 | 81 | 98 | 90 | 88 | 88 |
| South Wales | 243 | 245 | 243 | 243 | 252 | 233 | 165 | 143 |
| Total of 43 forces | 6,902 | 6,706 | 7,104 | 6,511 | 6,412 | 6,299 | 5,714 | 5,634 |

[1] Staff with multiple responsibilities (or designations) are recorded under their primary role or function. The deployment of police officers is an operational matter for individual chief constables.

[2] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between the totals in this table and totals in similar published tables.

[3] Data not provided by Kent police force.

[4] This traffic function table does not appear on our website but is used for policy purposes such as briefing documents, as a result, the data are confirmed with forces.

[5] Definition of the traffic function: Staff who are predominantly employed on motor-cycles or in patrol vehicles for the policing of traffic and motorway related duties. This includes officers employed in accident investigation, vehicle examination and radar duties. Include staff who are predominantly employed to support the traffic function of the force including radar, accident investigation, vehicle examination and traffic administration. Include those officers working with hazardous chemicals, and those administrative staff predominantly serving the internal needs of the traffic function of the force and those officer/staff in supporting roles.

*Police staff strength as at 31 March, by police force area England and Wales*

*Traffic wardens*

| *Police force* | *1996-97* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *200-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 108 | 114 | 115 | 59 | 48 | 44 | 43 | 34 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bedfordshire | 31 | 26 | 10 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cambridgeshire | 39 | 33 | 38 | 35 | 38 | 36 | 35 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cheshire | 34 | 35 | 31 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 19 | 15 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cleveland | 22 | 23 | 18 | 13 | 10 | 12 | 7 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cumbria | 21 | 21 | 16 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Derbyshire | 50 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 44 | 50 | 48 | 43 | 25 | 21 | 12 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 114 | 115 | 113 | 119 | 110 | 101 | 103 | 102 | 96 | 89 | 47 | 37 | 3 | 1 |
| Dorset | 61 | 49 | 42 | 41 | 37 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Durham | 22 | 22 | 21 | 22 | 19 | 19 | 15 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Essex | 136 | 123 | 121 | 102 | 82 | 59 | 38 | 21 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 9 |
| Gloucestershire | 33 | 38 | 35 | 35 | 30 | 30 | 31 | 21 | 16 | 14 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Greater Manchester | 208 | 189 | 160 | 96 | 88 | 87 | 88 | 88 | 90 | 71 | 32 | 26 | 5 | 5 |
| Hampshire | 77 | 65 | 68 | 53 | 53 | 31 | 25 | 23 | 16 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Hertfordshire | 72 | 55 | 44 | 38 | 45 | 42 | 38 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Humberside | 60 | 59 | 52 | 53 | 51 | 51 | 48 | 46 | 45 | 38 | 20 | 12 | 10 | 6 |
| Kent | 58 | 52 | 31 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lancashire | 115 | 110 | 101 | 94 | 87 | 84 | 50 | 17 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Leicestershire | 79 | 75 | 70 | 67 | 65 | 72 | 61 | 51 | 26 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lincolnshire | 24 | 26 | 22 | 20 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 18 | 20 | 14 | 10 | 10 | 7 | 9 |
| London, City of | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Merseyside | 132 | 115 | 114 | 106 | 93 | 63 | 52 | 43 | 10 | 5 | 38 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Metropolitan Police | 1,383 | 1,166 | 945 | 817 | 689 | 632 | 687 | 505 | 449 | 411 | 317 | 298 | 275 | 249 |
| Norfolk | 43 | 43 | 40 | 37 | 33 | 34 | 33 | 31 | 28 | 26 | 22 | 12 | 10 | 9 |
| Northamptonshire | 25 | 25 | 23 | 16 | 11 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Northumbria | 112 | 78 | 70 | 70 | 72 | 71 | 59 | 56 | 51 | 48 | 32 | 18 | 11 | 4 |
| North Yorkshire | 26 | 23 | 23 | 19 | 12 | 10 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Nottinghamshire | 68 | 61 | 65 | 58 | 39 | 30 | 29 | 33 | 12 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| South Yorkshire | 80 | 80 | 76 | 62 | 71 | 77 | 68 | 37 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Staffordshire | 37 | 35 | 31 | 24 | 17 | 12 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Suffolk | 33 | 32 | 33 | 31 | 29 | 29 | 25 | 25 | 20 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Surrey | 30 | 25 | 21 | 16 | 25 | 20 | 17 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sussex | 140 | 132 | 113 | 110 | 98 | 62 | 61 | 67 | 62 | 48 | 48 | 36 | 32 | 30 |
| Thames Valley | 117 | 103 | 95 | 58 | 45 | 51 | 42 | 36 | 24 | 16 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 2 |
| Warwickshire | 12 | 12 | 10 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| West Mercia | 38 | 35 | 31 | 30 | 23 | 21 | 15 | 13 | 9 | 10 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| West Midlands | 210 | 218 | 192 | 175 | 128 | 78 | 74 | 72 | 66 | 51 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| West Yorkshire | 136 | 129 | 118 | 116 | 107 | 99 | 98 | 85 | 42 | 26 | 12 | 9 | 5 | 4 |
| Wiltshire | 21 | 19 | 20 | 15 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 20 | 19 | 15 | 14 | 15 | 12 | 13 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 8 |
| Gwent | 34 | 33 | 32 | 30 | 28 | 28 | 27 | 25 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 20 | 19 | 15 |
| North Wales | 18 | 16 | 15 | 12 | 12 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| South Wales | 106 | 109 | 108 | 100 | 104 | 100 | 99 | 92 | 82 | 77 | 72 | 69 | 60 | 50 |

*Police staff strength as at 31 March, by police force area. England and Wales*

*Traffic wardens*

| *Police force* | *1996-97* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *200-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total of 43 forces | 4,180 | 3,788 | 3,342 | 2,855 | 2,516 | 2,233 | 2,108 | 1,688 | 1,281 | 1,053 | 764 | 590 | 468 | 409 |

*Note:*
This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between the totals and the sums of the constituent items.

# EDUCATION

## Capita

**Kate Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many contracts his Department has with Capita; and how much it has paid to Capita under such contracts in 2010-11 to date. [18631]

**Tim Loughton:** The main contracts held with Capita are for: the delivery of the National Strategies Programme, the project management of the Academies Programme, the managed delivery of the Teachers Pension Scheme, the Criminal Records Bureau checking service and the Managed Service for the Provision of Interim Personnel. The total value of payments to the Capita Group made as at 22 March 2011 were £118 million which includes managed service costs and payments for other parties.

## Child Development

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated into development in childhood and well-being. [48300]

**Sarah Teather:** There is no one study explicitly looking into the relationship between development in childhood and well-being. However, there are studies which the Department has commissioned or is aware of which look at child development or the well-being of children:

Funding support was previously provided for the Economic and Social Research Council's (ESRC) study "Understanding Society". The purpose of this longitudinal study is to understand social and economic change in Britain at the household and individual levels. Wave 3 of their survey due to be collected in 2011/12 will contain a module on child development which will cover questions on cognitive development and emotional adjustment; a child's experience of school; a child's activities at home; and parental interactions with the child. The report is available at:

http://research.understandingsociety.org.uk/findings/early-findings

The Millennium Cohort Study (MCS), commissioned by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) is a longitudinal study following the lives of around 19,000 children born in the UK in 2000/01. The MCS covers topics such as parenting, child care, school choice, child behaviour and cognitive development, child and parental health, parents' employment and education, income and poverty, housing, neighbourhood and residential mobility, and social capital and ethnicity. Funding support for the study is provided across Government including the Department for Education. "Children of the 21st century; the first five years" which documents the first five years of life of the millennium cohort children was published in February 2010, available at:

http://www.cls.ioe.ac.uk/publications.asp?section=00010001000600070003

The Effective Pre-school and Primary Education Study (EPPE) funded by the Department, is a longitudinal study of a national sample of young children's development between the ages of three and seven years. The study looks at the impact on children's intellectual and social/behavioural development of background characteristics related to parents, the child's home learning environment and the pre-school settings that children attend. The final report from EPPE is available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RSG/publicationDetail/Page1/SSU/FR/2004/01

The Departmental funded National Evaluation of Sure Start (NESS) is a long term wide-ranging evaluation of Sure Start Local Programmes (SSLPs). The aim of SSLPs was to enhance the life chances for young children growing up in disadvantaged neighbourhoods, to enhance health and well-being during the early years, to increase the chances that children would enter school ready to learn, be academically successful in school, socially successful in their communities and occupationally successful when adult. The impact of Sure Start Local Programmes on five-year-olds and their families' was published in November 2010 and is available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationdetail/page1/dfe-rr067

In 2009, the Department commissioned the Tellus4 National Survey. The Tellus survey was designed to gather information from children and young people about their behaviour and to seek their views on aspects of their lives, schools and local areas. The survey included questions about the children's physical and emotional well-being. The report was published in March 2010 and is available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-RR218.pdf

The Children's Society's "2009 National Survey of Young People's Well-being" was the first comprehensive, UK-wide investigation of childhood well-being—or happiness—from a young person's point of view. Children were also asked questions exploring the impact of family structure on well-being, such as living in a lone or step-parent family. The initial report provides a short introduction to some of the main topics covered by the survey and is available at:

http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/tcs/research_docs/Wellbeing%20report%20summary_0.pdf

The World Health Organisation's "Young people's health in Great Britain and Ireland" published findings from the "health behaviour of school aged children survey 2006". The overall aim of the study was to gain new insights and increase understanding of adolescent health behaviours, health and well-being, with an emphasis on the social determinants of adolescent health, particularly the social contexts of young people's lives. The report is available at:

http://www.hbsc.org/downloads/YoungPeoplesHealth_GB&Ireland.pdf

## Children: Friendship

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated research on childhood friendship bonds. [48308]

**Sarah Teather:** The Department has either commissioned or evaluated the following research into childhood friendship bonds:

Funding support has been provided for the Economic and Social Research Council's (ESRC) study, 'Understanding Society'. The study includes a question on friendship—the adult responsible for children aged 0-16 in the household is asked whether (all) child(ren) have children around for tea or a snack once a fortnight. The study finds that, if a young person's ability to have friends around is reduced due to material deprivation, their life satisfaction is negatively affected. The report is available at:

http://research.understandingsociety.org.uk/findings/early-findings

In 2009 the Department commissioned the Tellus 4 National Survey. Findings related to friendship include that the majority of children and young people (92%) say that they have one or more good friends and 66% said when they are worried about something they can talk to their friends. Girls are more likely to talk to their friends when worried than boys. Overall, 31% of children said they worried about their friends. Friends were a source of help for planning their future for around three out of five of children surveyed. The report is available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-RR218.pdf

The Children's Society has developed their Good Childhood Index, made up of 10 indicators designed to measure children's sense of well-being about different aspects of their life and includes the question 'how happy are you with your friends?' The report is available at:

http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/research/initiatives/well-being/background-programme-0

'The World Health Organisation: young people's health in Great Britain and Ireland' published findings from the Health Behaviour of School Age Children Survey 2006. The proportion of children having three or more close friends of the same gender decreases between age 11 and 15, and boys are more likely than girls to report having three or more close friends. At age 11, across all participating countries, England scores the highest for girls reporting having three or more close friends (91%). Rates of time spent out in the evenings with friends increase significantly between ages 11 and 15 years in the majority of countries for both boys and girls. Again, there is a significant increase in prevalence of daily electronic communication between ages 11 and 15. The report is available at:

http://www.hbsc.org/publications/reports.html

## Children: Day Care

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of *(a)* maintained and *(b)* private, voluntary and independent full day childcare settings in the west midlands were deemed (i) outstanding, (ii) good, (iii) satisfactory and (iv) inadequate by Ofsted in each of the last three years. [47880]

**Sarah Teather** *[holding answer 22 March 2011]:* These data are held by Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Libraries.

*Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 17 March 2011:*

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

Ofsted publishes quarterly official statistics on early years registered inspection outcomes, at local authority, government office region and national level, with the annual position summarised in the Annual Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills. The figures given in this response are consistent with published statistics.

Tables A, B and C show the inspection outcomes of childcare providers on the Early Years Register in the West Midlands which were active at the end of each period, since September 2008. Please note that we do not classify early years registered providers as 'maintained'. In addition, because there is no requirement for Ofsted to capture the funding streams of providers as part of the regulation and inspection of early years registered providers, we do not hold data on whether such providers are private, voluntary or independent.

The figures provided relate only to the inspection of those providers on the Early Years Register against the Early Years Foundation Stage framework and do not include a minority of providers inspected before September 2008, under the previous inspection framework. This is because there is no direct comparison between the two frameworks. Childcare providers offering care for children from birth to the 31 August following the child's fifth birthday are required to register on the Early Years Register. The arrangements of the Early Years Foundation Stage came into effect in September 2008, marking the beginning of a 47 month cycle of inspection, during which Ofsted aims to inspect all providers on the Early Years Register at least once.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Sarah Teather MP, Minister of State for Children and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

*Table A: Inspection outcomes for early years registered providers in the west midlands inspected between 1 September 2008 and 31 August 2009*

| | *Outstanding* | *Good* | *Satisfactory* | *Inadequate* | *Total number* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Childminders | 137 (7%) | 1,120 (60%) | 530 (28%) | 92 (5%) | 1,879 |
| Childcare on non-domestic premises | 119 (13%) | 510 (57%) | 231 (26%) | 42 (5%) | 902 |
| Childcare on domestic premises | 1 (25%) | 3 (75%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) | 4 |
| All provision | 257 (9%) | 1,633 (59%) | 761 (27%) | 134 (5%) | 2,785 |

*Notes:*
1. Percentages are rounded and do not always add exactly to 100.
2. Data relate to the most recent inspection during the period of providers who were active at 31 August 2009.
3. Data only relate to inspections where children were being cared for at time of inspection.

*Table B: Inspection outcomes for early years registered providers in the west midlands inspected between 1 September 2009 and 31 August 2010*

| | *Outstanding* | *Good* | *Satisfactory* | *Inadequate* | *Total number* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Childminders | 91 (8%) | 621 (56%) | 357 (32%) | 38 (3%) | 1,107 |
| Childcare on non-domestic premises | 103 (14%) | 447 (61%) | 154 (21%) | 25 (3%) | 729 |
| Childcare on domestic premises | 1 (33%) | 2 (67%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) | 3 |
| All provision | 195 (11%) | 1,070 (58%) | 511 (28%) | 63 (3%) | 1,839 |

*Notes:*
1. Percentages are rounded and do not always add exactly to 100.
2. Data relate to the most recent Inspection during the period of providers who were active at 31 August 2010.
3. Data only relate to inspections where children were being cared for at time of inspection.

*Table C: Inspection outcomes for early years registered providers in the west midlands inspected between 1 September 2010 and 31 December 2010*

| | Outstanding | Good | Satisfactory | Inadequate | Total number |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Childminders | 4 (3%) | 68 (59%) | 39 (34%) | 4 (3%) | 115 |
| Childcare on non-domestic premises | 18 (16%) | 66 (59%) | 23 (21%) | 4 (4%) | 111 |
| Childcare on domestic premises | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) | 0 |
| All provision | 22 (10%) | 134 (59%) | 62 (27%) | 8 (4%) | 226 |

*Notes:*

1. Percentages are rounded and do not always add exactly to 100.
2. Data relate to the most recent inspection during the period of providers who were active at 31 December 2010.
3. Data only relate to inspections where children were being cared for at time of inspection.

## Children: Obesity

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance his Department *(a)* has issued to schools since October 2010 and *(b)* plans to issue to schools in the next six months on reducing obesity among persons under the age of 16; and if he will make a statement. [45594]

**Sarah Teather:** The Department for Education has not issued any specific guidance to schools on reducing obesity since October 2010 and has no plans to issue further guidance in the next six months. However, this Government recognise that through physical education, competitive school sport and healthy eating, schools can help address the problem of childhood obesity. In the past, the Department has made available guidance and resources to help schools provide a healthy environment by providing nutritious school lunches, improving participation in high quality PE and sport opportunities, helping children learn about health through Personal, Social, Health and Economic education and practical activities such as cooking. Guidance from DFE and the Department of Health has also been issued to schools on how they can support the National Child Measurement Programme, which collects essential height and weight data on primary school pupils in Reception and Year 6.

## Children: Well-being

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the relative position of the UK in international comparator tables on the well-being of children. [44601]

**Tim Loughton:** The most recent and authoritative international report on the well-being of children is UNICEF's Report Card 9, "The children left behind: a league table of inequality in child well-being in the world's rich countries", published on 3 December 2010. The report assesses inequalities in child well-being for 24 of the world's richest countries, regarding material well-being, educational well-being and health well-being.

'Material inequality' measures household income, access to basic educational resources and household living space. 'Educational inequality' measures reading, maths and science literacy using the 2006 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). 'Health inequality' measures self-reported health, healthy eating and vigorous physical activity, using the 2005/06 "Health Behaviour of School-aged Children" (HBSC) study.

For material inequality, the UK showed higher levels of inequality than the OECD average, in particular for access to basic educational resources at home such as a calculator, dictionary, desk, etc. This measure of material inequality was the main driver for the UK's poor rank against other countries for this dimension of inequality (the UK was ranked 19th out of 24 countries).

The UK ranked 13th out of 24 countries for educational well-being. There was below average inequality for maths literacy, but above average inequality in science literacy.

The UK had lower than average inequality for each measure of health well-being (the UK was 11th out of the 24 countries). We performed particularly well in comparison to other countries in the self-reported health complaints measure.

The UK's overall ranking was in the bottom two-fifths of countries, alongside Belgium, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Luxembourg, Slovakia and Spain.

The OECD report "Doing Better for Children" (2009) presents a similarly mixed picture for national average levels of child well-being in rich countries (as distinct from the UNICEF report, which addresses inequalities). There is a strong positive in respect of the quality of school life, where we are among the OECD's best-performing countries. The strongest negative is on risky behaviours (smoking, drinking, teenage pregnancy) where we are among the worst. For the remaining dimensions—material well-being, educational well-being, housing/environment, and health/safety—the UK's performance is broadly similar to the OECD average.

UNICEF's analysis brings out the relationship between lower inequality and higher median scores. UNICEF has found that those countries with lower 'bottom-end' inequality are also those countries with higher median scores, particularly for education and health well-being. This suggests that it is possible to reduce inequality and have high performance in a country. Similarly, the 2010 Schools White Paper "The Importance of Teaching" highlights the importance of reducing attainment gaps between the rich and poor while maintaining high standards.

The Government remain committed to the goal of eradicating child poverty by 2020. The Child Poverty Act 2010 requires the Government to publish a child poverty strategy by spring 2011. To inform this process the Government conducted an eight week period of consultation with prominent members of the child poverty lobby and other interested parties. The consultation ran for eight weeks from 21 December 2010 to 15 February 2011.

The Government continue to believe that work provides parents and their children with the most sustainable route out of poverty. The Government want parents to take advantage of the employment opportunities currently available. As a consequence the UK welfare system is being reformed to allow individuals and parents keep more of their earnings and progress in work. This will enable parents to give their children the best possible start in life providing stable financial support for families in the crucial early years of a child's life. A strong foundation in the early years increases the probability of positive outcomes across the child's life; a weak foundation significantly increases the risk of later difficulties.

### Drugs: Young People

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate has been made of the proportion of children under 15 in each region who have *(a)* used cannabis and *(b)* been sexually active in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [48244]

**Sarah Teather:** Information on cannabis use among young people aged 11-15 was provided in the report Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People, published by the NHS Information Centre in 2009. A regional breakdown, with data averaged over three years due to the survey size, is provided in the following table.

*Proportion of young people aged 11-15 who took cannabis in the last year (average for 2006-08)*

| *Region* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| North East | 8 |
| North West | 12 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 11 |
| West Midlands | 10 |
| East Midlands | 9 |
| East of England | 10 |
| London | 9 |
| South East | 9 |
| South West | 10 |

The Government do not routinely collect data on sexual activity by age. It is also the case that the surveys that have been carried out on this issue, typically report on sexual activity below age 16, rather than under 15, given that the age of consent is 16. The most authoritative and relevant of the surveys in this area is the National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles (NATSAL), which is conducted every 10 years. NATSAL 2000 identified that among the 16 to 19-year-olds interviewed, 30% of young men and 26% of young women reported that their first sexual experience occurred before they reached age 16. This was consistent with the findings for young men and women in the survey who were aged 25-29, indicating that there had been no change in the proportion of young people having sex before age 16 over the preceding decade. The median age of first sex among 16 to 19-year-olds in the survey in 2000, was age 16.

Fieldwork for NATSAL 2010 has been completed, but the findings have not yet been published. However, a range of separate smaller scale surveys that have been undertaken since 2000 have consistently shown between a quarter and a third of young people reporting that they had their first sexual experience before age 16. A tracking survey that was used to assess young people's reactions to the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy's media campaign showed that in 2007, the mean age for first sex among young men was 16.48 years and for young women was 16.53 years. These results were the same as the results from the same survey carried out in 2004.

### Education Maintenance Allowance: Birmingham

**Shabana Mahmood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students in *(a)* Birmingham, Ladywood constituency and *(b)* Birmingham in receipt of education maintenance allowance (EMA) will have their EMA terminated before their programme of study is complete. [43118]

**Mr Gibb:** This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education and manage the Capita contract. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

*Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 22 March 2011:*

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ43118 that asked:

"How many students in (a) Birmingham, Ladywood constituency and (b) Birmingham in receipt of education maintenance allowance (EMA) will cease to receive EMA before their course is complete".

The application form for Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) does not require either the name of the course or its end date. Therefore we do not hold information on the number of students in receipt of EMA who are on programmes of study which are due to continue after EMA terminates on 31 August 2011.

### Educational Psychology

**Nicola Blackwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assistance his Department provides to educational psychologists. [32345]

**Sarah Teather:** The Department does not provide assistance to educational psychologists (EPs) who are in post—it is for employers to provide the necessary support to their work force. The Department's support for EPs is provided through the Children's Workforce Development Council's (CWDC) administration of a scheme for collecting voluntary subscriptions from local authorities (LAs) to support EPs' initial training. Since LA financial contributions have been steadily decreasing, this has involved CWDC meeting the shortfall in funding.

However, the current funding scheme is not sustainable. We have announced that the Department will meet the costs of completing the cohorts of educational psychologists currently in training, and for one further cohort due to begin training in September 2011. We are taking advantage of the opportunity presented by the consultation on the Green Paper "Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability" to consider options for placing the training of educational psychologists on a more secure footing.

### Family Breakdown

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the issue of conflicts in the family. [48506]

**Sarah Teather:** The Department has commissioned and is evaluating the following pieces of research which cover the issue of conflicts in the family:

In 2009, the Department commissioned research on the separating parents child poverty pilots. The separating parents child poverty pilots are testing how to better co-ordinate support and services for parents who are separating or have recently separated. The evaluation study looking at the effectiveness of these pilots will complete in spring 2011.

In 2010, the Department commissioned the evaluation of the Parenting Information Programme (PIP). The PIP is a contact activity supporting parents to focus on the needs of their child following their separation, to improve their relations and help them reach an amicable agreement on contact arrangements. The evaluation will provide evidence on the effectiveness of the PIP ordered by courts to support contact agreements, along with the sustainability and quality of these arrangements. This research is due to end in March 2011.

In 2006, the then Department for Children, Schools and Families commissioned the National Centre for Social Research to conduct a programme of research to monitor and evaluate family intervention projects (FIPS) as they were then known. Family intervention services work with the most challenging families and tackle issues such as antisocial behaviour, youth crime, unmet health issues, family functioning and domestic violence concerns, issues at school (such as truancy/exclusion), poor housing and unemployment in families. This programme of work is currently ongoing and the data it generates are used to inform official statistical releases which provide a range of information about family interventions. The most recent official statistical release can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000956/osr09-2010.pdf

In addition, data from the monitoring of FIPS have been used to develop further commentary and analysis of the families receiving the intervention services. This additional information was published by the Department for Education in November 2010 in the report "Monitoring and Evaluation of Family Interventions". This report can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/publications//eOrderingDownload/DFE-RR044.pdf

### Free Schools: Ilford

**Mike Gapes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Transport the traffic implications associated with the establishment of a free school at the Downshall Centre in Ilford; [48367]

(2) what discussions Partnership for Schools has had with representatives of Redbridge Council on the future of the Downshall Centre in Ilford; [48371]

(3) when his Department was notified of the proposal to use the Downshall Centre in Ilford as a location for a free school; [48379]

(4) what discussions his Department had with representatives of *(a)* Redbridge Council and *(b)* Partnership for Schools prior to the decision on the location of a free school in Ilford; [48380]

(5) what consultation *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Partnership for Schools conducted on the location of a free school in Ilford; [48381]

(6) if he will meet representatives of Redbridge Council to discuss the potential effects on local community groups of the establishment of a free school at the Downshall Centre in Ilford; [48382]

(7) when his Department was first informed that E-Act wished to purchase the Downshall Centre in Ilford. [48383]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 22 March 2011]:* The application form for the proposed free school in Ilford was received by the Department on 5 November 2010. It set out several site options, including the Downshall Centre. Since November 2010, Partnerships for Schools, the proposers (E-ACT), officials from the Department and representatives of Redbridge council have had discussions about the site of the proposed free school, including the potential use of the Downshall Centre. These discussions have included the need for the council to relocate some community facilities if the Downshall Centre is used.

The project is currently at the business case and plan stage. The business case and plan is being developed and will include the case for the use of a chosen site by the proposed school. No final decision to open the school will be made until a full assessment of the business case and plan has been completed and the Secretary of State has decided whether to sign the funding agreement with the proposers. As part of this process, the proposers (E-ACT) will be consulting on their plans to open a free school in Ilford. If the project proceeds, then transport issues will be fully considered and other agencies will be involved as necessary before the school opens.

### Higher Education: Sports

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans *(a)* he and *(b)* each Minister in his Department has to visit specialist sports colleges in the next three months. [36827]

**Tim Loughton:** Subject to diary pressures and any urgent parliamentary business, the Secretary of State and other Ministers at the Department for Education plan to visit a number of educational institutions over the next three months including those with a specialism in sport.

### Literacy

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the adult literacy rate was for each *(a)* region, *(b)* local authority area and *(c)* parliamentary constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [48190]

**Mr Hayes:** The most recent data available on adult literacy rates in England are those published in the 2003 Skills for Life survey.[1] This survey was based on fieldwork conducted between May 2002 and June 2003 with adults aged between 16 and 65 (inclusive). Literacy levels for the nine major administrative regions in England reported by the survey are included in table 1.

*Table 1: Literacy by region (percentage of population)*

| *Region/literacy level* | *Level 1[1] and above* |
|---|---|
| North East | 78 |
| London | 81 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 81 |
| West Midlands | 82 |
| North West | 83 |

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[1] Williams, J., S. Clemens, K. Oleinikoya and K. Tarvin (2003) "The Skills for Life Survey: a national needs and impact survey of literacy, numeracy and ICT skills", Department for Education and Skills: Research Report 490, available online at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/RB490.pdf

accessed 18 March 2011.

*Table 1: Literacy by region (percentage of population)*

| *Region/literacy level* | *Level 1[1] and above* |
|---|---|
| East Midlands | 84 |
| South West | 86 |
| East of England | 88 |
| South East | 88 |
| England | 84 |

[1] Equivalent to a low-level GCSE (D-G)) or above. Calculated as 100—(percentage at Entry Level 3 or below).

*Base:*
All respondents with literacy scores (7873)
*Source:*
Skills for Life survey, 2003: p.42

Modelled estimates of literacy levels for approximately 350 local education authorities (LEA) in England were calculated using the survey data. The best way to access information on individual LEAs is via the Skills for Life survey web-tool available at:

www.bis.gov.uk/skillsforlifesurvey

Literacy levels for each LEA can be located by accessing the website and clicking on the relevant Government Office region hyperlink (e.g. 'East Midlands') and then on the relevant Learning and Skills Council area (e.g. 'Derbyshire'). This then provides a list of LEAs in the given area. The LEA level results can be accessed by clicking on the hyperlink to results by LEA next to the table icon (e.g. Derbyshire results by LEA).

The survey did not provide literacy results by parliamentary constituency.

The Skills for Life survey was repeated in 2010. Fieldwork is now complete, and results of the survey are due to be made public later this year.

## Pre-school Education: Research

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what research into early years education his Department is providing funding. [48313]

**Sarah Teather:** Research into early years education for which the Department is providing funding is as follows:

| *Project title* | *Project description* |
|---|---|
| Implementation Study of Free Early Years Education for Two Year Old Children | Identifying good practice in implementing free early education for disadvantaged two year old children. The research is based on interviews with local authorities and child care providers. |
| Provider Influence On The Early Home Learning Environment | To help identify what early years settings could do to better support parents to develop their children's learning at home. The findings identify best practice; help quantify the benefits of support to parents and offer suggestions about how to make best use of resources. |
| Child Development Grant Evaluation | Aimed at assessing what impact the incentives and support offered by the Child Development Grant have on engagement. |
| National Evaluation of Sure Start | Studies the effectiveness of Sure Start local programmes in England and will last until 2012. It is made up of several sections: Implementation, Impact, Local Context Analysis, Cost Effectiveness and Support to Local Programmes. |
| Evaluation of Disabled Children's Access to Childcare (DCATCH)—Pilot | DCATCH is a pilot initiative running from March 2008 to March 2011; the focus of the pilots has been on improving the range and quality of child care for families of disabled children, and involving families in shaping child care services. The aims of the evaluation include: (i) to evaluate the impacts of these projects on disabled children and their families; and (ii) identify key lessons for policy development on child care provision for disabled children. |
| The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey (2010-2013) | Provides robust information on the key characteristics of child care provision in the early years and child care sector, as well as information on its workforce and the costs of child care that is available |
| The Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents 2010-2012 | Provides nationally representative annual statistics concerning parents' views on, and experiences of, different types of child care. The research is based on interviews with parents of children aged 0-14 |
| Evaluation of Graduate Leader Fund (GLF) | The GLF focuses specifically on the goal of placing a graduate leader in every PVI full day care setting by 2015. The evaluation consists of a range of research activities designed to assess the impact and implementation of GLF. |
| The Evaluation of Children's Centres in England | A long-term and substantive evaluation looking at a broad range of children's centres across the country, the different models of provision, and their impact on service users. The key aims are to provide rigorous information about the effectiveness of children's centres. |
| The Extension of the Effective Pre School and Primary Education (EPPE) Project to end of Key Stage 3 (KS3) | EPPE is large scale, longitudinal study that follows the developmental progress of 3,000 children originally in various types of pre-school education. This element provides an additional extension in order to follow the same cohort to the end of key stage 3. |
| The Millennium Cohort Study | A multi-disciplinary research project following the lives of around 19,000 children born in the UK in 2000-01. The study has been tracking the children through their early childhood years and plans to follow them into adulthood. |
| Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children—ALSPAC | A large-scale longitudinal study of children born in Avon during the early 1990s. More than 14,000 mothers enrolled during pregnancy in 1991 and 1992, and the health and development of their children has been followed in great detail ever since. |

| *Project title* | *Project description* |
|---|---|
| Effective Pre-school, primary and secondary education 3-14 (EPPSE)—continuation to 16 | This latest extension to the project: continues to follow the same group of students (originally from EPPE) through their final year of compulsory schooling (year 11, age 16) and on to their post-16 educational, training and employment choices. |

## Private Education

**John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many independent schools applied to become *(a)* academies and *(b)* free schools in the last year for which figures are available. [43559]

**Mr Gibb:** Independent schools that wish to become academies follow the free school application process and are considered alongside applications for new schools. To date, 105 independent schools have applied to become free schools.

## Schools: Transport

**Mr Alan Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2011, *Official Report,* column 867W, on the North East, what method of transport he used to travel to the three schools and colleges; and what the cost of the transport was. [48011]

**Tim Loughton:** The Secretary of State for Education and accompanying official travelled economy class by train, and a car provided by the Government Car Despatch Agency. Total cost for both travellers was £715.26.

## Special Educational Needs

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools in England and Wales providing specialist services for students with disabilities provide such services exclusively for children aged 16 to 18 years. [46820]

**Sarah Teather:** The information requested is not held centrally.

The latest published information on special educational needs can be found in the "Special Educational Needs in England: January 2010" Statistical First Release at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000939/index.shtml

Information relating to Wales is the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government.

**Mr Blunkett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to his Green Paper on special educational needs, which items of guidance to schools and local authorities he plans to withdraw. [47285]

**Sarah Teather** *[holding answer 18 March 2011]:* In the Green Paper "Support and Aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability", published on 9 March, we announced that we will retain, but review and update, the statutory guidance to schools and local authorities in the SEN code of practice to reflect the proposals for change in the Green Paper and responses to the consultation.

In the Green Paper we ask whether the statutory guidance on inclusion and school choice, 'Inclusive Schooling', allows appropriately for parental preference for either mainstream or special schools. In the light of the responses to the Green Paper we will consider whether to incorporate this guidance into the new code.

The Green Paper also made a commitment to simplify and improve non-statutory guidance so that it is clear, accessible and helpful, and we will withdraw guidance that does not provide useful support.

On non-statutory guidance, the Department issued guidance on pupils with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties (BESD) in 2008. The Green Paper is consulting on the categorisation of BESD and whether the term adequately identifies difficulties that may underlie difficult behaviour. The revised and updated code will include guidance on behaviour, following consideration of responses to the consultation, and we intend, therefore, to withdraw the BESD guidance. The revised code will also incorporate guidance on the effective use of data in monitoring the progress and achievement of pupils with SEN and disabilities currently set out in guidance on categorising SEN for School Census purposes (2005), Progression Guidance (2009), and Breaking the Link between Special Educational Needs and Low Attainment (2010).

We will remove good practice guidance on autism spectrum disorders (2002) as this has been superseded by the web-based 2010 in-service training materials on autism. We will also remove the SEN Toolkit, as it replicates much of the existing code, and the SEN Governors' Guide video which is now out of date in both content and format.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on special needs education. [47737]

**Sarah Teather:** On 9 March, the Department published "Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability". This Green Paper has been informed by a call for views, which received over 1,800 responses, 40% of which came from parents of disabled children and children with SEN.

In developing the Green Paper the Department has also heard from a range of professionals from health, education, social care and other areas, representative bodies, the voluntary and community sector, and children and young people and their families.

The Green Paper is now out for consultation until 30 June.

## Special Educational Needs: Redditch

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* special needs schools and *(b)* children attending special needs schools there are in Redditch constituency. [32240]

**Sarah Teather:** At January 2010 there were two special needs schools in Redditch with a total of 185 sole and two dual registered pupils. Both schools are maintained special schools.

## Special Educational Needs: South West

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many children and young people at each age up to 19 in *(a)* North Somerset, *(b)* Bath and North East Somerset, *(c)* Somerset, *(d)* the City of Bristol and *(e)* Dorset have a disability or a special educational need; [46731]

(2) how many children and young people at each age up to 19 in *(a)* North Somerset, *(b)* Bath and North East Somerset, *(c)* Somerset, *(d)* the City of Bristol and *(e)* Dorset (i) have a statement of special educational need and (ii) have a statement of special educational need which was made at the request of a parent or carer; and on what date each such statement was issued. [46732]

**Sarah Teather:** Information on the number of disabled children is not currently available. Such information is being collected for the first time and on a voluntary basis as part of the spring 2011 school census. Future collection and publication arrangements for data on disability will be considered in the light of data and feedback collected in response to January 2011 school census returns.

Information on the number of pupils with special educational needs, with and without statements, is shown in the following tables.

The Department does not collect information on who requested the statement, or the date of issue of the statement.

*All schools excluding independent and general hospital schools[1]: number of pupils[2] with special educational needs (SEN) by age[3], as at January 2010, in North Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset, Somerset, city of Bristol and Dorset local authorities*

| | North Somerset | | | | | | Bath and North East Somerset | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Pupils with SEN without statements | | Pupils with statements of SEN | | Total[4] | | Pupils with SEN without statements | | Pupils with statements of SEN | | Total[4] | |
| Age as at 31 August 2009: | No. | %[5] | No. | %[5] | No. | %[5] | No. | %[5] | No. | %[5] | No. | %[5] |
| 2 and under | [6]— | [6]— | 0 | 0.0 | [6]— | [6]— | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| 3 | 14 | 3.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 15 | 3.7 | 12 | 4.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 10 | 4.1 |
| 4 | 149 | 7.0 | 16 | 0.7 | 165 | 7.7 | 102 | 6.0 | 22 | 1.3 | 125 | 7.3 |
| 5 | 343 | 15.8 | 19 | 0.9 | 360 | 16.7 | 214 | 13.3 | 20 | 1.2 | 235 | 14.6 |
| 6 | 416 | 19.8 | 17 | 0.8 | 435 | 20.6 | 312 | 18.8 | 42 | 2.5 | 355 | 21.3 |
| 7 | 467 | 22.3 | 18 | 0.9 | 485 | 23.2 | 369 | 22.4 | 36 | 2.2 | 405 | 24.6 |
| 8 | 417 | 20.5 | 23 | 1.1 | 440 | 21.6 | 340 | 20.9 | 47 | 2.9 | 385 | 23.8 |
| 9 | 490 | 22.8 | 31 | 1.4 | 520 | 24.2 | 369 | 22.3 | 55 | 3.3 | 425 | 25.6 |
| 10 | 474 | 21.7 | 37 | 1.7 | 510 | 23.4 | 405 | 24.1 | 50 | 3.0 | 455 | 27.1 |
| 11 | 513 | 22.8 | 63 | 2.8 | 575 | 25.6 | 337 | 16.1 | 48 | 2.3 | 385 | 18.4 |
| 12 | 443 | 19.8 | 54 | 2.4 | 495 | 22.2 | 290 | 13.0 | 76 | 3.4 | 365 | 16.5 |
| 13 | 535 | 23.6 | 58 | 2.6 | 595 | 26.1 | 270 | 12.6 | 79 | 3.7 | 350 | 16.3 |
| 14 | 646 | 27.5 | 62 | 2.6 | 710 | 30.1 | 184 | 8.6 | 81 | 3.8 | 265 | 12.4 |
| 15 | 635 | 27.8 | 43 | 1.9 | 680 | 29.6 | 214 | 9.7 | 87 | 3.9 | 300 | 13.6 |
| 16 | 80 | 9.4 | 25 | 2.9 | 105 | 12.3 | 22 | 2.1 | 26 | 2.5 | 50 | 4.6 |
| 17 | 36 | 5.3 | 22 | 3.2 | 60 | 8.5 | 19 | 2.2 | 24 | 2.7 | 45 | 4.9 |
| 18 | [6]— | [6]— | 3 | 6.8 | 5 | 11.4 | 3 | 6.3 | 9 | 18.8 | 10 | 25.0 |
| 19 and over | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| All pupils[4] | 5,660 | 20.0 | 490 | 1.7 | 6,150 | 21.8 | 3,460 | 14.0 | 700 | 2.8 | 4,165 | 16.9 |

| | Somerset | | | | | | City of Bristol | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Pupils with SEN without statements | | Pupils with statements of SEN | | Total[4] | | Pupils with SEN without statements | | Pupils with statements of SEN | | Total[4] | |
| Age as at 31 August 2009: | No. | %[5] | No. | %[5] | No. | %[5] | No. | %[5] | No. | %[5] | No. | %[5] |
| 2 and under | [6]— | [6]— | [6]— | [6]— | [6]— | [6]— | 16 | 4.1 | [6]— | [6]— | 15 | 4.3 |
| 3 | 12 | 2.3 | 0 | 0.0 | 10 | 2.3 | 278 | 9.8 | 14 | 0.5 | 290 | 10.3 |
| 4 | 460 | 8.6 | 14 | 0.3 | 475 | 8.8 | 354 | 7.9 | 53 | 1.2 | 405 | 9.1 |
| 5 | 759 | 14.4 | 26 | 0.5 | 785 | 14.9 | 564 | 13.3 | 94 | 2.2 | 660 | 15.5 |
| 6 | 1,069 | 20.0 | 24 | 0.4 | 1,095 | 20.4 | 756 | 18.3 | 91 | 2.2 | 845 | 20.5 |
| 7 | 1,071 | 21.5 | 34 | 0.7 | 1,105 | 22.2 | 741 | 19.9 | 94 | 2.5 | 835 | 22.4 |
| 8 | 1,114 | 21.7 | 38 | 0.7 | 1,150 | 22.4 | 747 | 19.7 | 124 | 3.3 | 870 | 22.9 |
| 9 | 1,255 | 23.5 | 55 | 1.0 | 1,310 | 24.5 | 764 | 20.4 | 125 | 3.3 | 890 | 23.7 |
| 10 | 1,227 | 22.3 | 58 | 1.1 | 1,285 | 23.4 | 682 | 18.5 | 148 | 4.0 | 830 | 22.5 |
| 11 | 1,204 | 22.3 | 72 | 1.3 | 1,275 | 23.6 | 640 | 19.4 | 150 | 4.6 | 790 | 24.0 |
| 12 | 1,072 | 19.2 | 119 | 2.1 | 1,190 | 21.3 | 604 | 18.5 | 181 | 5.5 | 785 | 24.0 |

| | Somerset | | | | | | City of Bristol | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Pupils with SEN without statements | | Pupils with statements of SEN | | Total[4] | | Pupils with SEN without statements | | Pupils with statements of SEN | | Total[4] | |
| Age as at 31 August 2009: | No. | %[5] | No. | %[5] | No. | %[5] | No. | %[5] | No. | %[5] | No. | %[5] |
| 13 | 1,055 | 19.9 | 116 | 2.2 | 1,170 | 22.1 | 510 | 16.8 | 154 | 5.1 | 665 | 21.9 |
| 14 | 990 | 17.8 | 119 | 2.1 | 1,110 | 20.0 | 520 | 16.7 | 180 | 5.8 | 700 | 22.5 |
| 15 | 1,182 | 20.4 | 130 | 2.2 | 1,310 | 22.6 | 432 | 14.4 | 144 | 4.8 | 575 | 19.1 |
| 16 | 45 | 4.4 | 33 | 3.2 | 80 | 7.6 | 66 | 6.7 | 43 | 4.4 | 110 | 11.1 |
| 17 | 26 | 3.2 | 21 | 2.6 | 45 | 5.8 | 34 | 4.3 | 27 | 3.5 | 60 | 7.8 |
| 18 | [6]— | [6]— | 17 | 18.1 | 20 | 20.2 | [6]— | [6]— | 26 | 20.6 | 30 | 22.2 |
| 19 and over | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | [6]— | [6]— | 0 | 0.0 | [6]— | [6]— |
| All pupils[4] | 12,545 | 18.7 | 875 | 1.3 | 13,420 | 20.0 | 7,710 | 15.8 | 1,650 | 3.4 | 9,360 | 19.2 |

| | Dorset | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Pupils with SEN without statements | | Pupils with statements of SEN | | Total[4] | |
| Age as at 31 August 2009: | No. | %[5] | No. | %[5] | No. | %[5] |
| 2 and under | 0 | 0.0 | [6]— | [6]— | [6]— | [6]— |
| 3 | 9 | 4.2 | 4 | 1.9 | 15 | 6.1 |
| 4 | 373 | 9.9 | 35 | 0.9 | 410 | 10.8 |
| 5 | 703 | 18.6 | 50 | 1.3 | 755 | 20.0 |
| 6 | 797 | 21.2 | 57 | 1.5 | 855 | 22.7 |
| 7 | 972 | 26.1 | 72 | 1.9 | 1,045 | 28.0 |
| 8 | 959 | 25.6 | 71 | 1.9 | 1,030 | 27.5 |
| 9 | 999 | 25.4 | 99 | 2.5 | 1,100 | 27.9 |
| 10 | 977 | 23.8 | 100 | 2.4 | 1,075 | 26.2 |
| 11 | 1,041 | 22.1 | 138 | 2.9 | 1,180 | 25.0 |
| 12 | 933 | 20.1 | 145 | 3.1 | 1,080 | 23.2 |
| 13 | 887 | 20.3 | 113 | 2.6 | 1,000 | 22.9 |
| 14 | 802 | 18.6 | 149 | 3.5 | 950 | 22.0 |
| 15 | 780 | 17.7 | 150 | 3.4 | 930 | 21.0 |
| 16 | 163 | 6.7 | 40 | 1.7 | 205 | 8.4 |
| 17 | 93 | 4.8 | 20 | 1.0 | 115 | 5.8 |
| 18 | 10 | 5.1 | 24 | 12.2 | 35 | 17.3 |
| 19 and over | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| All pupils[4] | 10,500 | 19.4 | 1,270 | 2.3 | 11,765 | 21.8 |

[1] Includes maintained and direct grant nursery schools, maintained primary schools, maintained secondary schools, academies, city technology colleges, pupil referral units, maintained and non-maintained special schools.

[2] Includes sole registrations. In pupil referral units, includes pupils registered with other providers and at further education colleges.

[3] Age as at 31 August 2009.

[4] Totals have been rounded to the nearest five.

[5] The number of pupils by type of SEN expressed as a percentage of all pupils of the same age.

[6] One or two pupils, or a percentage based on one or two pupils.

*Source:*
School Census.

### Third Sector

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department are participating in volunteering activities as part of his Department's involvement in the big society initiative. [42661]

**Sarah Teather:** The Secretary of State for Education and Ministers within the Department participate in a range of volunteering activities.

### Truancy

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the position of England in international comparator rates for truancy. [48485]

**Mr Gibb:** The Department for Education has not assessed the position of England in international comparator rates for truancy.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer question *(a)* (i) 28050 and (ii) 28051, tabled on 29 November 2010 and *(b)* 28761, tabled on 1 December 2010, on school sports partnerships. [32362]

**Tim Loughton:** Responses to the hon. Member's questions were printed as follows:

PQ 28050: 12 January 2011, *Official Report,* column 344W
PQ 28051: 22 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 1046W
PQ 28761: 13 January 2011, *Official Report,* column 449W

## WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

### Civil Partnerships

**Guto Bebb:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what plans she has to bring forward legislative proposals to enable civil partnerships to take place in religious settings; whether she plans to undertake a consultation on this issue; and if she will make a statement. [43156]

**Lynne Featherstone:** We announced on 17 February 2011 our intention to remove the ban in England and Wales on civil partnership registrations being held on religious premises by implementing section 202 of the Equality Act 2010. As section 202 is a permissive provision, religious organisations that do not wish to host civil partnership registrations will not be required to do so as a result of this change.

In the spring we will launch a consultation on proposals for how civil partnership registrations may be held on religious premises.

### Work-based Stress

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what arrangements are in place in her Department to *(a)* reduce levels of work-based stress and *(b)* provide assistance to staff diagnosed with such stress. [48193]

**Lynne Featherstone:** The Government Equalities Office (GEO) has sought to find efficient ways of working and to allocate work fairly so that stress is minimised. Care is taken to set realistic deadlines for work and staff capability is assessed before allocating work. GEO has also developed a Well Being at Work policy. This policy recognises the Health and Safety Commission's stress management risk factors and includes self help tools designed to help alleviate stress. It also shows what formal support is available, through an Employee Assistance Programme. GEO staff may also seek advice and guidance through the Occupational Health Service.

### Women

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities who attended the pre-Commission on the Status of Women briefing organised by the Government Equalities Office in January 2011; and which organisations they represented. [48531]

**Lynne Featherstone:** There were 40 attendees at the pre-UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 55th Session briefing organised by the Government Equalities Office. The following list gives the UK non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the other Government Departments (OGDs) represented.

*NGOs represented*

National Alliance of Women's Organisations (NAWO)
Widows for Peace through Democracy
Soroptimist International
Widows Rights International
UN Women UK
International Council of Jewish Women
National Council of Women Great Britain
Baha'i International
Northern Ireland Women
European Platform
Engender
Scottish Women's Convention
UK Resource Centre for Science, Engineering and Technology
International Federation of University Women
World Association of Girl Guides and Girls Scouts
International Federation of Business and Professional Women
UNAMINA
Gender Users Statistics Group
The Haven, Wolverhampton
Womankind International
Trades Union Congress
UNA UK

*OGDs represented*

Department for International Development
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Department of Education
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
Home Office.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Departmental Plants

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on indoor and outdoor plants and trees since his appointment. [48431]

**Gregory Barker:** The Department has not spent any money on indoor or outdoor plants since the appointment of the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change.

Plants in my own office are grown by myself and purchased at my own expense.

### Departmental Public Bodies

**Tessa Jowell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the UK Chemical Weapons Convention National Authority Advisory Committee. [48706]

**Charles Hendry:** It is estimated by the Department that the abolition of the UK Chemical Weapons Convention National Authority Advisory Committee (NAAC) will result in an annual saving of approximately £1,800.

### Departmental Stationary

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of his departmental stationery comes from recycled or sustainable sources. [48329]

**Gregory Barker:** For the period January to December 2010 the Department of Energy and Climate Change purchased 35% of its total stationery requirements (paper and non-paper) from recycled or sustainable sources. In addition 100% of paper supplied to the Department is either recycled or sourced from managed forests.

### Electricity: Meters

**Kate Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what criteria his Department plans to use to assess the costs and benefits of the roll-out of smart meters. [47634]

**Charles Hendry:** The Department has published impact assessments setting out the expected costs and benefits of the roll-out of smart meters. Costs and benefits have been assessed in line with the HMT Green Book, which sets out the core principles on which all public sector economic assessment should be appraised.

Costs and benefits are quantified where possible and assessed against a base case scenario which assumes that there is no substantive roll-out of smart meters. Costs and benefits are also adjusted to account for the timing of their incidence by discounting them, and for any risk and optimism bias. The impacts of changes in key variables such as energy prices are also considered.

The latest impact assessments were published in July 2010 and may be accessed via the DECC smart meters website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/smart_mtr_imp/smart_mtr_imp.aspx

### Renewable Energy: British Overseas Territories

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on *(a)* solar energy and *(b)* tidal energy projects in British Overseas Territories in each of the last three years. [48037]

**Gregory Barker:** DECC has not spent any money on solar energy or tidal energy projects in British Overseas Territories in any of the last three years.

### Renewable Energy: Heating

**Mr Robin Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department made of the number of properties which would be affected by roll-out of the planned Renewable Heat Incentive before the recent announcement of its revision; and what estimate it has made of the number of households which will be affected by the new scheme. [48245]

**Gregory Barker:** The Renewable Heat Premium Payment will provide support of £15 million in 2011-12 for up to 25,000 domestic renewable heat installations. This will be followed by the introduction of RHI tariffs for domestic installations in 2012. However, while we expect this number to grow substantially, we cannot yet give estimates for numbers of domestic installations supported under the RHI tariffs as we have not determined tariff levels and other issues around its operation. A consultation on these details is planned for later in 2011.

### Renewable Energy: South West

**Dr Wollaston:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the potential for *(a)* tidal power, *(b)* wind power and *(c)* solar power in renewable energy projects in (i) Totnes constituency, (ii) South Devon and (iii) the South West. [47598]

**Gregory Barker:** The Department assessed the potential development of marine energy projects in England and Wales as part of the development of the Second Offshore Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) scoping report. The SEA Environmental report has just been published and is now open for consultation. The SEA should pave the way for future leasing rounds for marine (wave and tidal) energy in English waters.

The Department has funded renewable and low carbon energy opportunity assessment studies covering some onshore renewable technologies in England, including for the south-west. We believe that the studies will be helpful to local planning authorities and local communities in drawing up local and neighbourhood plans. It will be for local planning authorities and communities to decide how best to use the findings of the studies to inform their development plans and to maximise opportunities for the deployment of renewable and low carbon energy in their areas.

DECC has not made an assessment of offshore wind potential in the south-west. However, in January 2010, the Crown Estate leased the Bristol Channel Round 3 offshore wind Zone 8 to RWE Npower Renewables, the UK subsidiary of RWE Innogy. The target capacity for this zone is 1.5 GW. The total Bristol Channel zone area is 950 km$^2$.

Following the award of the zone, RWE Npower Renewables announced their intention to develop a 1.5 GW wind farm called 'Atlantic Array' within the zone. The site extends over 492 km$^2$ and is 14 km from the north Devon coast and 18 km from the south Wales coast at its closest point.

The Element Energy report on 'The Growth Potential for Microgeneration in England, Wales and Scotland' provides an overall picture of the current and potential future level of demand for microgeneration, including solar power. It includes regional specific information. Further information is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/publications/Default.aspx?term=potential%20of%20microgeneration%20teclinolsies&tags=&urn=&fromDate=&toDate=&alpha

### Third Sector

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department provided to each charity it funds in each year since its inception; and how much he has allocated for funding to each such charity in each of the next five years. [48291]

**Gregory Barker:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change does not set aside a specific amount for charities and voluntary organisations. However, charities and voluntary organisations have been and continue to be able to apply, via our delivery partners, for grant funding under certain DECC low carbon schemes.

## HEALTH

### Accident and Emergency Departments: Standards

**Mr Bradshaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital accident and emergency departments in each strategic health authority did not meet the target of treating 98%. of patients within four hours in each of the last six quarters in which the target was applied. [48295]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The information shown in the following table is the number of organisations in each strategic health authority (SHA) that did not meet the target of treating 98% of patients within four hours in each of the last six quarters for which the target applied.

| *SHA name* | | *Quarter* | *Number of organisations* | *Number of organisations not meeting the 98% target* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| North East | 2010-11 | Q1 | 8 | 0 |
| North East | 2009-10 | Q4 | 8 | 1 |

| *SHA name* | | *Quarter* | *Number of organisations* | *Number of organisations not meeting the 98% target* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| North East | 2009-10 | Q3 | 8 | 1 |
| North East | 2009-10 | Q2 | 8 | 1 |
| North East | 2009-10 | Q1 | 8 | 0 |
| North East | 2008-09 | Q4 | 8 | 0 |
| | | | | |
| North West | 2010-11 | Q1 | 25 | 4 |
| North West | 2009-10 | Q4 | 25 | 7 |
| North West | 2009-10 | Q3 | 25 | 14 |
| North West | 2009-10 | Q2 | 25 | 5 |
| North West | 2009-10 | Q1 | 25 | 3 |
| North West | 2008-09 | Q4 | 25 | 12 |
| | | | | |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 2010-11 | Q1 | 15 | 3 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 2009-10 | Q4 | 15 | 2 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 2009-10 | Q3 | 15 | 5 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 2009-10 | Q2 | 15 | 0 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 2009-10 | Q1 | 15 | 2 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 2008-09 | Q4 | 15 | 4 |
| | | | | |
| East Midlands | 2010-11 | Q1 | 8 | 4 |
| East Midlands | 2009-10 | Q4 | 8 | 4 |
| East Midlands | 2009-10 | Q3 | 8 | 6 |
| East Midlands | 2009-10 | Q2 | 8 | 0 |
| East Midlands | 2009-10 | Q1 | 8 | 1 |
| East Midlands | 2008-09 | Q4 | 8 | 4 |
| | | | | |
| West Midlands | 2010-11 | Q1 | 16 | 7 |
| West Midlands | 2009-10 | Q4 | 16 | 10 |
| West Midlands | 2009-10 | Q3 | 16 | 11 |
| West Midlands | 2009-10 | Q2 | 16 | 3 |
| West Midlands | 2009-10 | Q1 | 16 | 2 |
| West Midlands | 2008-09 | Q4 | 16 | 8 |
| | | | | |
| East of England | 2010-11 | Q1 | 17 | 5 |
| East of England | 2009-10 | Q4 | 17 | 9 |
| East of England | 2009-10 | Q3 | 17 | 6 |
| East of England | 2009-10 | Q2 | 17 | 0 |
| East of England | 2009-10 | Q1 | 17 | 1 |
| East of England | 2008-09 | Q4 | 17 | 10 |
| | | | | |
| London | 2010-11 | Q1 | 25 | 4 |
| London | 2009-10 | Q4 | 25 | 10 |
| London | 2009-10 | Q3 | 25 | 9 |
| London | 2009-10 | Q2 | 25 | 0 |
| London | 2009-10 | Q1 | 25 | 1 |
| London | 2008-09 | Q4 | 27 | 14 |
| | | | | |
| South East Coast | 2010-11 | Q1 | 12 | 3 |
| South East Coast | 2009-10 | Q4 | 12 | 4 |
| South East Coast | 2009-10 | Q3 | 12 | 3 |
| South East Coast | 2009-10 | Q2 | 12 | 1 |
| South East Coast | 2009-10 | Q1 | 12 | 0 |
| South East Coast | 2008-09 | Q4 | 13 | 6 |
| | | | | |
| South Central | 2010-11 | Q1 | 10 | 1 |
| South Central | 2009-10 | Q4 | 10 | 5 |
| South Central | 2009-10 | Q3 | 10 | 7 |
| South Central | 2009-10 | Q2 | 10 | 2 |
| South Central | 2009-10 | Q1 | 10 | 2 |
| South Central | 2008-09 | Q4 | 10 | 5 |
| | | | | |
| South West | 2010-11 | Q1 | 17 | 1 |
| South West | 2009-10 | Q4 | 17 | 8 |
| South West | 2009-10 | Q3 | 17 | 6 |
| South West | 2009-10 | Q2 | 17 | 1 |
| South West | 2009-10 | Q1 | 17 | 1 |
| South West | 2008-09 | Q4 | 17 | 9 |

*Notes:*

1. From Q1 2010-11, the calculation of accident and emergency (A and E) performance changed. Prior to 2010-11, the calculation identified the proportion of breaches with respect to all A and E attendances, irrespective of whether the time spent in A and E was known. The new calculation uses the breaches as a proportion of total attendances for which the time spent in A and E is known. Any attendances for which the time spent in A and E is unknown are excluded from the total attendances for the purpose of this calculation.

2. Figures shown include all acute trusts in England. Percentage figures calculated including activity at partner primary care trusts or independent sector providers.

*Source:*

Unify2 data collection: QMAE.

**Mr Bradshaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital accident and emergency departments in each strategic health authority have met the target to treat 95% of patients within four hours in each quarter since the target was reduced from 98%. [48298]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The information shown in the following table is the number of organisations in each strategic health authority (SHA) that met the target to treat 95% of patients within four hours in each quarter since the target was reduced from 98%.

| *SHA name* | *Year* | *Quarter* | *Number of organisations* | *Number of organisations meeting the 95% target* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| North East | 2010-11 | 3 | 8 | 8 |
| North East | 2010-11 | 2 | 8 | 8 |
| North West | 2010-11 | 3 | 25 | 25 |
| North West | 2010-11 | 2 | 25 | 25 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 2010-11 | 3 | 15 | 12 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 2010-11 | 2 | 15 | 15 |
| East Midlands | 2010-11 | 3 | 8 | 6 |
| East Midlands | 2010-11 | 2 | 8 | 8 |

| *SHA name* | *Year* | *Quarter* | *Number of organisations* | *Number of organisations meeting the 95% target* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| West Midlands | 2010-11 | 3 | 16 | 13 |
| West Midlands | 2010-11 | 2 | 16 | 15 |
| East of England | 2010-11 | 3 | 17 | 15 |
| East of England | 2010-11 | 2 | 17 | 17 |
| London | 2010-11 | 3 | 25 | 23 |
| London | 2010-11 | 2 | 25 | 24 |
| South East Coast | 2010-11 | 3 | 12 | 8 |
| South East Coast | 2010-11 | 2 | 12 | 10 |
| South Central | 2010-11 | 3 | 10 | 7 |
| South Central | 2010-11 | 2 | 10 | 10 |
| South West | 2010-11 | 3 | 17 | 17 |
| South West | 2010-11 | 2 | 17 | 17 |

*Notes:*

1. From Q1 2010-11, the calculation of accident and emergency (A&E) performance changed. Prior to 2010-11 the calculation identified the proportion of breaches with respect to all A&E attendances, irrespective of whether the time spent in A&E was known. The new calculation uses the breaches as a proportion of total attendances for which the time spent in A&E is known. Any attendances for which the time spent in A&E is unknown are excluded from the total attendances for the purpose of this calculation.
2. Figures shown include all acute trusts in England. Percentage figures calculated including activity at partner primary care trust or independent sector providers.

*Source:*

Unify2 data collection—QMAE

### Departmental Hospitality

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on the contents of ministerial drinks cabinets since 12 May 2010. [48401]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Nil.

### Ambulance Services

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on arrangements to improve liaison between ambulance services and other emergency responders; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of cooperation between blue-light services; and if he will make a statement. [48149]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department of Health, along with the Home Office and the Department of Communities and Local Government, continues to encourage and support regular communication across all emergency services. While the police, fire and rescue, and NHS ambulance services will continue to offer vital, but very different and separate services, there are continuous discussions to identify areas where the emergency services could work more closely and effectively together.

### Departmental Contracts

**Tessa Jowell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the change in the *(a)* volume and *(b)* monetary value of services provided by his Department which have been contracted out to (i) the third sector and (ii) the private sector between January 2005 and December 2010. [48163]

**Mr Simon Burns:** From the Department's Central Procurement's Database it is not possible to accurately distinguish between services being provided by the Department and to the Department. To accurately identify services being provided by the Department, and then whether the provider is classified as third sector or private sector, would involve an inquiry to and search for every Directorate within the Department which could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Drugs: Misuse

**Nicola Blackwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding will be available for drug and alcohol services after April 2011; and what bodies will be responsible for such services. [47953]

**Anne Milton:** Central funding for drug treatment is currently provided to primary care trusts (PCTs) in the form of the pooled treatment budget. £406.7 million is being made available for 2011-12. In addition funding for the Drug Intervention Programme of £60 million and funding of £69 million is available to national health service trusts for drug treatment and interventions in adult and children and young people's secure settings.

Alcohol interventions and services are funded by the general allocation that PCTs receive from the Department. It is the responsibility of PCTs to assess the needs of their communities, to agree what to prioritise and to commission services.

From April 2013, drug and alcohol services will fall within the services that it is proposed will be funded by Public Health England and commissioned by local authorities as part of their new public health functions and funded from their ring-fenced public health budget.

The Department is carrying out an exercise to determine how much is currently spent on those activities that would be funded from the public health budget, including drug and alcohol services. This work will take account of the outcome of the on-going consultation around the public health White Paper, which ends on 31 March.

### Epilepsy: Bexley

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in the London Borough of Bexley were diagnosed with epilepsy in each of the last 10 years. [47979]

**Paul Burstow:** The information requested has never been collected.

The national Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) records the number of people, aged 18 or over, recorded on practice disease registers who are receiving drug treatment for epilepsy. The register is not a count of patients newly diagnosed with the disease within each year but rather a count of patients receiving drug treatment for epilepsy on a specific day within the year. These data are available for the releases of QOF covering financial years 2005-06 through to 2009-10 at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/audits-and-performance/the-quality-and-outcomes-framework

## Genito-urinary Medicine

**Mr Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brighton, Kemptown of 16 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 860W, on genito-urinary medicine, on what date he plans to publish a new sexual health strategy. [48175]

**Anne Milton:** No decisions have yet been taken on what date this year the document on sexual health will be published.

## Health Services: Yorkshire and the Humber

**Julian Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the level of spending per head of population was in the *(a)* North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust area, *(b)* Bradford and Airedale Primary Care Trust area and *(c)* area covered by the Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority in the latest period for which figures are available. [47902]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The level of spending per head of population in 2009-10, the most recent financial year for which figures are available, by North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust (PCT), Bradford and Airedale PCT and the sum of the constituent PCTs in the Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority (SHA) patch are shown in the following table:

| *Organisation* | *2009-10 (£)* |
|---|---|
| North Yorkshire and York PCT | 1,475 |
| Bradford and Airedale PCT | 1,725 |
| All PCTs in Yorkshire and the Humber SHA economy area | 1,643 |

*Note*:
"The level of spending" has been interpreted as the total revenue expenditure of the PCTs (the net operating costs).
*Source*:
The net operating cost is taken from the audited summarisation schedules of PCTs for 2009-10. This figure is divided by the PCTs' resident population to derive the spend per head figure.

## Hospitals: Waiting Lists

**Mr Bradshaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients *(a)* in each primary care trust area in the South West and *(b)* in each strategic health authority area were not treated within 18 weeks of referral in each quarter since January 2009. [48302]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department collects and publishes monthly referral to treatment data which are used to monitor national health service waiting times. These data include information on how many patients waited more than 18 weeks before starting treatment. The Department does not collect information on the reasons why patients waited longer than 18 weeks but these will include those patients who chose to wait longer for personal or social reasons, for example to work around family or work commitments, or where waiting longer was clinically appropriate. For these reasons, there will always be a number of patients who are not treated within 18 weeks of referral.

This information is contained in the following tables:

*Number of admitted (adjusted) patients in each primary care trust (PCT) area in the South West not treated within 18 weeks of referral per quarter since January 2009*

| *PCT code* | *PCT name* | *Q4 2008-09* | *Q1 2009-10* | *Q2 2009-10* | *Q3 2009-10* | *Q4 2009-10* | *Q1 2010-11* | *Q2 2010-11* | *Q3 2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5FL | Bath and North East Somerset PCT | 198 | 242 | 224 | 310 | 672 | 510 | 263 | 416 |
| 5QN | Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT | 374 | 235 | 215 | 309 | 343 | 245 | 268 | 320 |
| 5QJ | Bristol PCT | 555 | 675 | 694 | 764 | 819 | 554 | 442 | 476 |
| 5QP | Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT | 857 | 489 | 635 | 1,290 | 677 | 627 | 1,211 | 1,899 |
| 5QQ | Devon PCT | 1,150 | 1,047 | 1,009 | 980 | 1,160 | 860 | 598 | 666 |
| 5QM | Dorset PCT | 473 | 344 | 375 | 610 | 910 | 609 | 443 | 682 |
| 5QH | Gloucestershire PCT | 847 | 815 | 731 | 807 | 867 | 795 | 764 | 1,023 |
| 5M8 | North Somerset PCT | 263 | 275 | 323 | 372 | 345 | 304 | 226 | 271 |
| 5F1 | Plymouth Teaching PCT | 310 | 247 | 239 | 220 | 298 | 203 | 207 | 232 |
| 5QL | Somerset PCT | 705 | 745 | 885 | 1,482 | 1,500 | 1,354 | 766 | 693 |
| 5A3 | South Gloucestershire PCT | 234 | 281 | 307 | 365 | 378 | 265 | 189 | 225 |
| 5K3 | Swindon PCT | 37 | 66 | 136 | 227 | 195 | 122 | 141 | 197 |
| TAL | Torbay Care Trust | 105 | 106 | 157 | 142 | 160 | 206 | 121 | 78 |
| 5QK | Wiltshire PCT | 520 | 488 | 407 | 504 | 788 | 668 | 482 | 613 |

*Number of non-admitted patients in each primary care trust area in the South West not treated within 18 weeks of referral per quarter since January 2009*

| *PCT code* | *PCT name* | *Q4 2008-09* | *Q1 2009-10* | *Q2 2009-10* | *Q3 2009-10* | *Q4 2009-10* | *Q1 2010-11* | *Q2 2010-11* | *Q3 2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5FL | Bath and North East Somerset PCT | 234 | 152 | 150 | 150 | 116 | 86 | 145 | 253 |

*Number of non-admitted patients in each primary care trust area in the South West not treated within 18 weeks of referral per quarter since January 2009*

| *PCT code* | *PCT name* | *Q4 2008-09* | *Q1 2009-10* | *Q2 2009-10* | *Q3 2009-10* | *Q4 2009-10* | *Q1 2010-11* | *Q2 2010-11* | *Q3 2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5QN | Bournemouth And Poole Teaching PCT | 180 | 138 | 160 | 140 | 178 | 109 | 124 | 124 |
| 5QJ | Bristol PCT | 424 | 368 | 376 | 424 | 511 | 351 | 249 | 275 |
| 5QP | Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT | 516 | 433 | 494 | 398 | 505 | 439 | 585 | 629 |
| 5QQ | Devon PCT | 718 | 613 | 694 | 655 | 666 | 529 | 542 | 533 |
| 5QM | Dorset PCT | 258 | 246 | 275 | 324 | 377 | 300 | 266 | 276 |
| 5QH | Gloucestershire PCT | 702 | 479 | 534 | 571 | 494 | 662 | 699 | 594 |
| 5M8 | North Somerset PCT | 193 | 130 | 189 | 149 | 128 | 121 | 101 | 136 |
| 5F1 | Plymouth Teaching PCT | 242 | 203 | 193 | 232 | 266 | 289 | 351 | 330 |
| 5QL | Somerset PCT | 323 | 330 | 403 | 466 | 560 | 505 | 470 | 426 |
| 5A3 | South Gloucestershire PCT | 172 | 113 | 118 | 138 | 247 | 165 | 107 | 125 |
| 5K3 | Swindon PCT | 87 | 186 | 323 | 245 | 247 | 171 | 164 | 193 |
| TAL | Torbay Care Trust | 201 | 153 | 115 | 188 | 154 | 131 | 134 | 189 |
| 5QK | Wiltshire PCT | 481 | 419 | 352 | 346 | 316 | 269 | 330 | 484 |

*Number of admitted (adjusted) patients in each strategic health authority (SHA) area not treated within 18 weeks of referral per quarter since January 2009*

| *SHA name* | *Q4 2008-09* | *Q1 2009-10* | *Q2 2009-10* | *Q3 2009-10* | *Q4 2009-10* | *Q1 2010-11* | *Q2 2010-11* | *Q3 2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands SHA | 4,342 | 3,398 | 3,587 | 4,191 | 4,860 | 4,245 | 4,243 | 4,892 |
| East of England SHA | 7,624 | 7,709 | 7,472 | 7,123 | 9,332 | 8,530 | 8,559 | 7,712 |
| London SHA | 7,818 | 6,897 | 8,462 | 8,217 | 7,797 | 7,592 | 7,678 | 7,811 |
| North East SHA | 3,078 | 2,961 | 2,814 | 2,468 | 2,674 | 2,173 | 2,116 | 2,419 |
| North West SHA | 10,469 | 9,261 | 9,714 | 10,265 | 11,221 | 7,977 | 8,143 | 10,023 |
| South Central SHA | 4,670 | 4,355 | 4,595 | 5,428 | 6,935 | 7,637 | 7,647 | 6,932 |
| South East Coast SHA | 5,974 | 5,319 | 5,449 | 5,315 | 7,623 | 7,546 | 6,180 | 6,522 |
| South West SHA | 6,628 | 6,055 | 6,337 | 8,382 | 9,112 | 7,322 | 6,121 | 7,791 |
| West Midlands SHA | 6,047 | 5,309 | 5,582 | 6,307 | 6,759 | 5,583 | 6,208 | 7,113 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber SHA | 6,946 | 6,015 | 5,907 | 6,511 | 6,776 | 7,271 | 7,313 | 7,864 |
| National Commissioning Group | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

*Number of non-admitted patients in each strategic health authority (SHA) area not treated within 18 weeks of referral per quarter since January 2009*

| *SHA name* | *Q4 2008-09* | *Q1 2009-10* | *Q2 2009-10* | *Q3 2009-10* | *Q4 2009-10* | *Q1 2010-11* | *Q2 2010-11* | *Q3 2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands SHA | 3,884 | 3,425 | 3,339 | 3,582 | 3,449 | 2,942 | 3,654 | 3,985 |
| East of England SHA | 6,822 | 6,782 | 6,649 | 6,619 | 6,481 | 5,369 | 5,713 | 6,002 |
| London SHA | 10,983 | 10,557 | 12,323 | 9,944 | 8,703 | 8,106 | 9,251 | 9,469 |
| North East SHA | 3,189 | 3,178 | 3,158 | 2,530 | 2,253 | 2,204 | 2,628 | 2,840 |
| North West SHA | 11,849 | 10,845 | 10,974 | 10,432 | 9,929 | 7,639 | 8,611 | 10,790 |
| South Central SHA | 3,970 | 3,616 | 4,809 | 4,124 | 3,795 | 3,562 | 3,123 | 4,234 |
| South East Coast SHA | 6,214 | 5,875 | 5,495 | 5,838 | 7,410 | 6,195 | 6,451 | 6,470 |
| South West SHA | 4,711 | 3,963 | 4,376 | 4,426 | 4,765 | 4,127 | 4,267 | 4,567 |
| West Midlands SHA | 7,452 | 7,058 | 6,497 | 6,203 | 5,583 | 4,537 | 5,775 | 6,233 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber SHA | 6,975 | 5,681 | 5,098 | 5,231 | 5,542 | 5,404 | 6,378 | 6,659 |
| National Commissioning Group | 0 | 1 | 8 | 13 | 45 | 14 | 4 | 2 |

## Lung Cancer

**Charlotte Leslie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to develop outcome measures for lung cancer treatment. [48052]

**Paul Burstow:** On 20 December 2010, we published "The NHS Outcomes Framework 2011/12", which will measure the overall progress of the national health service in delivering better health outcomes for patients.

The first NHS Outcomes Framework contains outcomes for cancer including 'one-year and five-year survival rates for lung cancer'.

In addition, we have published "Improving Outcomes—A Strategy for Cancer", which sets out a range of measures to improve outcomes for all cancer patients, including those with lung cancer. Backed by more than £750 million over the next four years, the strategy sets out our plans to improve earlier diagnosis, access to screening and treatment, and patients' experience of care.

Copies of both publications have been placed in the Library.

### NHS: Manpower

**Simon Hart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many non-medical staff in each *(a)* salary range and *(b)* category of employment the NHS employed in each year since 2008. [47812]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The full-time equivalent (FTE) number of non-medical staff employed by the national health service in England in each £5,000 basic pay band for the period April to June for the years 2008, 2009 and 2010 is shown in table 1.

The numbers of non-medical staff in each staff group employed by the NHS in England for 2008 and 2009 are shown in table 2. The figures are taken from the annual NHS work force census of NHS staff in England at 30 September each year.

The data in the two tables are not comparable because pay band data are extracted from the payroll dimension of the Electronic Staff Record (ESR) and include only staff who are on Agenda for Change terms and conditions so, for example, 114,000 general practitioner (GP) practice staff are not included. As such, staff numbers in this report will not match those in the NHS work force census which covers all staff employed by the NHS in England. Data on staff groups in table 2 are extracted from the annual NHS work force census. As noted above these figures will not match those derived from the earnings process.

*Table 1: Basic pay and total earnings for non medical staff groups, English NHS, 2008-10*

| Basic salary[1] | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *Full-time equivalent[2]* |
| £10,000-£15,000 | 148,267 | 104,831 | 86,096 |
| £15,000-£20,000 | 186,404 | 215,802 | 241,289 |
| £20,000-£25,000 | 173,293 | 189,267 | 162,543 |
| £25,000-£30,000 | 119,198 | 134,035 | 157,609 |
| £30,000-£35,000 | 107,050 | 98,930 | 109,805 |
| £35,000-£40,000 | 40,051 | 67,009 | 44,542 |
| £40,000-£45,000 | 17,789 | 16,764 | 51,727 |
| £45,000-£50,000 | 4,939 | 14,237 | 20,774 |
| £50,000-£55,000 | 8,571 | 10,479 | 5,667 |
| £55,000-£60,000 | 1,403 | 3,033 | 8,319 |
| £60,000-£65,000 | 3,657 | 1,586 | 1,623 |
| £65,000-£70,000 | 1,333 | 3,724 | 5,704 |
| £70,000-£75,000 | 692 | 649 | 831 |
| £75,000-£80,000 | 1,109 | 2,142 | 797 |
| £80,000-£85,000 | 189 | 276 | 2,116 |
| £85,000-£90,000 | 144 | 173 | 254 |
| £90,000-£95,000 | 149 | 155 | 174 |
| £95,000-£100,000 | [3]— | 291 | 444 |
| £100,000+ | 15 | 23 | 28 |

[1] Mean basic salary is calculated by dividing the total amount of annualised basic pay earned by staff by the total worked FTE for those staff m the period specified.

[2] Calculated as mean basic salary, but for all earnings. This includes basic salary, plus hours related pay, overtime, occupation payments, location payments and other payments including redundancy pay or payment of notice periods.

[3] Indicates that the number is less than 10 so the data are obscured in line with the Data Protection Act.

*Notes:*

1. These figures represent payments made using the Electronic Staff Record to NHS staff who are on Agenda for Change pay scales.
2. Figures based on data from all NHS organisations who are using ESR (two foundation trusts have not taken up ESR).
3. Earnings data are extracted from the payroll dimension of ESR and undergoes a different data manipulation process to NHS census data. As such, staff numbers in this report will not match those in the NHS Census.

*Source:*

Information Centre for Health and Social Care NHS Staff Earnings Estimates. April to July 2008, 2009 and 2010—processed using data taken from the Electronic Staff Record Data Warehouse.

*Table 2: NHS hospital and community health service (HCHS) and general practice work force England*

| | *Headcount* | |
|---|---|---|
| *As at 30 September* | *2008* | *2009* |
| Total HCHS non-medical staff | 1,120,548 | 1,176,831 |
| Total qualified nursing staff[2] | 408,160 | 417,164 |
| Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff | 346,377 | 353,570 |
| Bank nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff | 39,735 | 41,659 |
| GP practice nurses[1, 3] | 22,048 | 21,935 |
| Total qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff[4] | 142,558 | 149,596 |
| Qualified Allied Health Professions | 71,301 | 73,953 |
| Other qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff | 71,257 | 75,643 |
| Qualified ambulance staff[5] | 17,451 | 17,922 |
| Support to clinical staff | 355,010 | 377,617 |
| Support to doctors and nursing staff | 266,070 | 278,390 |
| Bank support to doctors and nursing staff | 20,184 | 25,034 |

*Table 2: NHS hospital and community health service (HCHS) and general practice work force England*

| | Headcount | |
|---|---|---|
| *As at 30 September* | *2008* | *2009* |
| Support to scientific, therapeutic and technical staff | 55,689 | 59,831 |
| Support to ambulance staff | 13,067 | 14,362 |
| | | |
| NHS infrastructure support | 219,064 | 236,103 |
| Central functions | 105,354 | 115,818 |
| Hotel, property and estates | 73,797 | 75,624 |
| Manager and senior manager | 39,913 | 44,661 |
| | | |
| Other non-medical staff or those with unknown classification | 353 | 364 |
| | | |
| Other GP practice staff[1] | 92,436 | 92,333 |

[1] GP data as at 1 October 1999 and 30 September 2000-09

[2] Nursing and midwifery figures exclude students on training courses leading to a first qualification as a nurse or midwife.

[3] Headcount practice nurse figures are estimated for 1999 based on the 1997 FTE to headcount ratio.

[4] To make the census data comparable with the Review Body for Nursing Staff and Other Health Professionals definitions, qualified Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) now include speech and language therapists (previously these were included in other qualified ST and T staff). For comparability historical data have been reassigned to match the revised definition. The numbers of AHPs will not match those published in previous years.

[5] In 2006 ambulance staff were collected under new, more detailed, occupation codes. As a result, qualified totals and support to ambulance staff totals are not directly comparable with previous years.

*Source:*

The NHS Information Centre.

## Obesity

**Jason McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of NHS funding to treat morbid obesity which is provided for *(a)* medical solutions and *(b)* holistic approaches. [47962]

**Anne Milton:** None. It is up to primary care trusts to commission a range of health care services for their population, based on clinical need and effectiveness.

**Jason McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the NHS is taking to enable obese individuals to take control of their own weight loss management. [47963]

**Anne Milton:** It is up to primary care trusts to commission a range of health care services for their population, based on clinical need and effectiveness.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has set 'Guidance on the prevention, identification, assessment and management of overweight and obesity in adults and children', available at:

www.nice.org.uk/CG43

This guidance sets out clinical and public health recommendations for the prevention and management of overweight and obesity, including different services that can help individuals to manage their weight.

**Jason McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements are in place in the NHS to support charities concerned with childhood obesity. [47964]

**Anne Milton:** It is for primary care trusts to commission services to meet the health care needs of their local populations, taking account of local and national priorities.

The Department administers the Innovation, Excellence and Service Development Fund. This scheme provides charities with funding to support projects in the health and social care field. Organisations are asked to align their proposals with one or more of the cross cutting themes set out by the Department.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of *(a)* men and *(b)* women in each socio-economic decile who are (i) overweight and (ii) obese. [48191]

**Anne Milton:** Information is not available in the format requested. We do not hold information on socio-economic deciles.

Information on the percentage of overweight and obese men and women, aged 16 and over, by equivalised household income quintiles in England in 2009, is included in table 7.3 of the 'Health Survey for England—2009: Health and lifestyles' report. This information is available on the NHS Information Centre's website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/hse09report

This publication has been placed in the Library.

## Parents: Advisory Services

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what help and support the NHS offers couples considering parenthood. [48464]

**Anne Milton:** The NHS Choices website:

www.nhs.uk

publishes a wide range of information for people considering parenthood including preconceptual care, planning for a healthy pregnancy and choosing the best options for maternity care.

## Surgery

**Charlotte Leslie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to support professional societies in surgery and medicine in the development of surgical audits and patient outcome data; [48050]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that guidelines of the European Society for Cardiothoracic Surgery on when patients with multi-vessel coronary artery disease should be recommended for coronary artery surgery or a percutaneous coronary intervention are implemented in the NHS. [48051]

**Mr Simon Burns:** In recognition of the role audit plays in driving up quality and delivering improved outcomes for patients the NHS White Paper commits the Coalition to extending clinical audit to more conditions and a wider range of interventions.

In 2011-12 the Department will make another £1.2 million available for up to four new national clinical audits. The topic selection for these new audits has started—led by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership. The intention is that the topics are aligned to the Outcomes Framework and National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Quality Standards and where significant improvements in health outcomes might be achievable.

The Department is working with the professional societies and NHS Improvement to ensure that there is appropriate multi-disciplinary decision making and patient involvement in decisions about their care, as set out in the European Society for Cardiology guidelines.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Thursday 24 March 2011*

## PRIME MINISTER

### Departmental Hospitality

**John Mann:** To ask the Prime Minister for what reasons the transparency pages in respect of Ministers' meetings and hospitality on the 10 Downing street website have not been updated since September 2010; and what procedures he has put in place to ensure that the pages are regularly updated. [48799]

**The Prime Minister:** The Government are publishing details of Ministers' meetings, hospitality, overseas travel, and gifts given and received over £140 on a quarterly basis in accordance with the new Ministerial Code. Information for the period August to September was published in December 2010. Information for the period October to December will be published very shortly.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Third Sector

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Leader of the House how much his Office provided to each charity it funds in each of the last five years; and how much he has allocated for funding to each such charity in each of the next five years. [48279]

**Sir George Young:** The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons does not directly provide funding to any charities.

## WALES

### Cyfanfyd: Finance

**Kevin Brennan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with the Secretary for State for International Development on reductions to the budget of Cyfanfyd; and if she will make a statement. [48697]

**Mr David Jones:** None. Notice of these reductions was given to Cyfanfyd in February 2010.

DFID provides funding for a range of development education projects throughout the UK, including in Wales. DFID's funding for programmes to raise awareness of international development, and for development education, is currently being reviewed.

DFID is continuing to engage with the development education sector in Wales, and will consider options for further funding following the results of the review.

### Departmental Hospitality

**Kevin Brennan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1W, on St David's day, what the name is of each person who was invited to her St David's day event at Gwydyr house on 1 March 2011. [48700]

**Mrs Gillan:** I have no plans to release this information.

### Departmental Plants

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department has spent on indoor and outdoor plants and trees since her appointment. [48414]

**Mr David Jones:** Since May 2010, the Wales Office has spent £20 on indoor plants. No other plants or trees have been purchased.

### Departmental Theft

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what items with a value of over £100 have been taken without authorisation from her Department since her appointment; and what steps have been taken to recover such items. [48432]

**Mr David Jones:** None.

### Work-based Stress

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what arrangements are in place in her Department to *(a)* reduce levels of work-based stress and *(b)* provide assistance to staff diagnosed with such stress. [48194]

**Mr David Jones:** Staff in my Department follow policies and procedures set by the Ministry of Justice for any matters relating to work-based stress.

### Third Sector

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department provided to each charity it funds in each of the last five years; and how much she has allocated for funding to each such charity in each of the next five years. [48284]

**Mr David Jones:** The Wales Office does not fund any charities.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has carried out an impact assessment on the effects of reductions in his Department's administration costs on frontline services. [48794]

**Mr Jeremy Hunt:** In the spending review settlement for 2011-12 to 2014-15, I preserved as far as possible expenditure on front line services to secure delivery of the Department's key priorities. I am confident that the larger reduction in the Department's administrative costs can be achieved without jeopardising that delivery.

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Redundancy

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many civil servants in his Department have been offered voluntary redundancy since April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [49194]

**David Mundell:** The Scotland Office does not employ staff directly. All its staff are on secondment from other public bodies, mainly the Ministry of Justice and the Scottish Government. Both the Ministry of Justice and the Scottish Government recently launched voluntary early departure schemes which were open to all their staff.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Departmental Hospitality

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on the contents of ministerial drinks cabinets since 12 May 2010. [48397]

**Mr Paterson:** The Northern Ireland Office does not have ministerial drinks cabinets.

### Departmental Plants

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on indoor and outdoor plants and trees since his appointment. [48417]

**Mr Paterson:** Where possible the Northern Ireland Office uses plants grown at Hillsborough castle which is part of the departmental estate. The expenditure on indoor and outdoor plants and trees since May 2010 is £4,120.47.

£1,428.65 of this spend relates to plants provided for the annual Royal Garden Party in Northern Ireland which was attended by over 2,500 people to recognise their contribution to local communities across Northern Ireland. A further £1,403.63 was spent on stock plants to maintain the grounds at Hillsborough castle. These plants can be used in-house for a number of years, further reducing the Department's year-on-year costs.

### Departmental Redundancy

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many civil servants in his Department have been offered voluntary redundancy since April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [49196]

**Mr Paterson:** No civil servants in my Department have been offered voluntary redundancy since April 2010.

### Departmental Theft

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what items with a value of over £100 have been taken without authorisation from his Department since his appointment; and what steps have been taken to recover such items. [48436]

**Mr Paterson:** No items have been taken without authorisation from the Northern Ireland Office.

### Work-based Stress

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what arrangements are in place in his Department to *(a)* reduce levels of work-based stress and *(b)* provide assistance to staff diagnosed with such stress. [48200]

**Mr Paterson:** Staff in my Department follow policies and procedures in all HR matters as set by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). Ministry of Justice policies mandate that:

> An assessment is made of the risks to employee health from stress and other psychological hazards;
>
> procedures are implemented to manage and mitigate those risks; and
>
> support is provided for staff experiencing stress or psychological harm as a result of their work.

Managers and staff share responsibility for assessing and managing stress at work. MoJ provides detailed guidance on how these actions should be carried out and the arrangements which should be followed; this also applies with regard to staff who are exposed to potentially traumatising incidents.

Managers and staff have access to support through occupational health and employee assistance services, which include confidential counselling and other psychological therapeutic interventions as appropriate. Managers must consider referral to occupational health services in all cases where staff are absent through sickness with stress related problems.

### Third Sector

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department provided to each charity it funds in each of the last five years; and how much he has allocated for funding to each such charity in each of the next five years. [48280]

**Mr Paterson:** Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available following the completion of devolution of policing and justice functions on 12 April 2010. Since 12 April 2010, my Department has made a grant to two charities:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Army Benevolent Fund | 23,000 |
| UDR Benevolent Fund | 62,000 |

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Preventing Violent Extremism Programme

**Andrew Griffiths:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what records *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Government Offices for the Regions hold on the expenditure by local authorities of Preventing Violent Extremism programme funding allocated to them; and what requirements there were on recipient local authorities to inform his Department of the (i) planned and (ii) actual use of the funds. [43856]

**Andrew Stunell:** Local authorities undertaking Prevent activity have been funded through the non ring-fenced Area Based Grant. In line with arrangements for non ring-fenced funding, Government Departments and Government offices have not required local authorities to inform them of local funding decisions. We note the criticism of the Communities and Local Government Select Committee in March 2010 over the monitoring and evaluation of the Prevent programme.

My Department is currently developing a new approach to promote integration and participation.

### Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what legal advice he has received on the introduction of an *(a)* voluntary and *(b)* mandatory minimum price for alcohol. [46925]

**Robert Neill:** Alcohol pricing policy is led by the Home Office.

### Departmental Plants

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on indoor and outdoor plants and trees since his appointment. [48428]

**Robert Neill:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Cannock Chase (Mr Burley) on 1 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 743-44W.

### Departmental Public Bodies

**David Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to reduce the number of public bodies within his Department's area of responsibility. [49155]

**Robert Neill:** Four of the Department's arm's length bodies have already been closed and a programme of reform is in place which will see another 12 either closed or transferred to the private or voluntary sector by 2012. These were set out in the Government's Public Bodies Review published on the 14 October last year, and confirmed on 16 March 2011 as part of in the Government's response to the Public Administration Select Committee report 'Smaller Government: Shrinking the Quango State'. The relevant documents can be found at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/public-bodies-reform-proposals-change

### Electoral Reform Services

**Mr Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many contracts for electoral administration services of what monetary value his Department and its predecessors had with *(a)* Electoral Reform Services and *(b)* each other provider in (i) 1992, (ii) 1997, (iii) 2002 and (iv) 2007. [46754]

**Mr Harper:** I have been asked to reply.

The Cabinet Office acquired responsibility for policy on the conduct of certain statutory elections in June 2010. Prior to that policy sat with the Ministry of Justice and its predecessor Department, the Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA): policy on UK-wide elections moved to the DCA in June 2003 with the policy for local elections following in 2005. Prior to June 2003 elections policy sat with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (now the Department for Communities and Local Government). From 2001 the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions had this responsibility. Before 2000, it rested with the Home Office.

I can confirm that *(a)* there were no contracts for electoral administration services between the Government Departments responsible for electoral policy in 2002 and 2007 and Electoral Reform Services. The position for 1992 and 1997 could be established only at disproportionate cost; *(b)* what contracts the relevant Departments had in each of those years with other providers of electoral administration services could be established only at disproportionate cost.

### Flood Control

**Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the future provision of flood prevention services previously provided through the Government office network; and what assessment he has made of the effects on flood prevention services of the closure of that network. [38008]

**Robert Neill:** The Government office network contribution to flood risk management has previously been in respect of the building of resilience and supporting local agencies responding to flooding emergencies.

With the abolition of the Government office network the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), in consultation with other Departments, is developing a new model for resilience, building on the work and the relationships already developed.

The core DCLG resilience role is to support the Government in responding to national emergencies, and to support local responders in planning, preparing and responding to emergencies.

DCLG is putting in place a new approach to resilience, reflecting the coalition priorities for localism, decentralisation and big society and to end the forced regionalisation of services.

### Government Offices for the Regions: Buildings

**Hazel Blears:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the future use of buildings used by the Government Office network. [46997]

**Robert Neill:** In advance of their abolition on the 31 March 2011, the Department for Communities and Local Government's estate strategy is focused on arranging disposal or future re-use of the Government offices for the regions' property portfolio.

This work will reduce the size of the portfolio from 14 buildings currently to 10 buildings by the end of 2011-12 and down to seven by the end of the spending review period. The retained buildings will be re-used by a range of Government Departments and agencies.

### Local Government Finance

**Mr Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much each local authority received from each *(a)* revenue and *(b)* capital funding stream from his Department in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; what the total funding allocated by such streams was in each year; and what the change was in the level of funding in (A) cash and (B) real terms. [46810]

**Robert Neill** *[holding answer 18 March 2011]:* I have today placed details of allocations made so far to individual authorities in the Library of the House. These reflect our success in un-ringfencing and simplifying funding streams—the Government are rolling around £4 billion of grants in 2010-11 into the unhypothecated formula grant by 2014-15, and the number of separate core grants for local government reduces from over 90 to fewer than 10.

The total of grant funding allocated directly from this Department to all local and fire authorities in 2010-11 so far is £28.3 billion revenue and £0.639 billion capital. The total allocated so far in 2011-12 is £25.2 billion revenue and £0.248 billion capital.

These figures do not provide the basis for a like-for-like comparison of the change in funding between the two years because (a) we do not yet have the full picture of funding for 2011-12, with more announcements to be made; and (b) there have been changes in methodology between the two years.

For example, the 2010-11 private finance initiative revenue funding includes allocations made by this Department on behalf of other Government Departments. From 2011-12, each Department will provide revenue funding from its own Departmental Expenditure Limit to support private finance initiative schemes relating to services for which it has policy responsibility. Therefore, the figures for private finance initiative funding 2011-12 only cover the allocations in respect of schemes for which this Department has responsibility. As a result, the figures imply there has been a £766 million reduction, when there has actually been an increase in private finance initiative revenue funding.

A better measure of the impact on local authorities is changes to revenue spending power published on 31 January 2011. We have made sure that no local authority will see a reduction in spending power of more than 8.8% in either 2011-12 or 2012-13. This information is available on our website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/1112/grant.htm

### Regional Development Agencies: Assets

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 593W, on departmental public expenditure, whether income from the disposal of the assets of regional development agencies in 2013-14 will be directed to the geographic localities in which such assets were situated. [49030]

**Robert Neill:** Income from the disposal of the assets of regional development agencies in 2013-14 will support the Departments' housing and regeneration initiatives in different parts of the country, including those in which assets were situated.

As an illustration for my Department's support for housing and regeneration in Newcastle, I would point the hon. Member to my Department's press notice of 10 March 2011 on the Byker Estate and the writing off of up to £42 million of local housing debt by the Government:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/communities/1861951

### Social Rented Housing

**Oliver Colvile:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the promotion of social mobility through reducing levels of under-occupation of social housing. [48890]

**Andrew Stunell:** In January the Minister for Housing and Local Government announced a £13 million programme to help under-occupying social tenants who wish to move. While no tenant will be forced to move, many tenants welcome the offer of support to find a home that better suits their needs. Helping under-occupiers to move will often free up a larger home for other tenants, including those who have been overcrowded.

Our radical reforms to tenure, mobility and the rules on allocating social housing, together with the introduction of a national home-swap scheme, will provide local authorities with tools to address under-occupation and to help support greater mobility among social tenants.

### Squatting

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many buildings on his Department's estate were occupied by squatters in each year between 2006 and 2010; and on how many occasions his Department sought interim possession orders to remove squatters from such buildings in each of those years. [47616]

**Robert Neill:** There have been no instances of squatting in any of the central departmental estate properties during the period in question.

### Work-based Stress

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what arrangements are in place in his Department to *(a)* reduce levels of work-based stress and *(b)* provide assistance to staff diagnosed with such stress. [48247]

**Robert Neill:** The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) currently has the following measures in place to reduce levels of work related stress:

a stress at work policy;

a contract with Health Management Ltd. for the provision of an occupational health service;

an enhanced Employee Assistance Programme delivered through Right CoreCare. This service offers advice on a range of issues such as health and well-being, debt, work and career issues, relationship and emotional concerns and legal information; and

a programme of workshops, presentations and training courses for staff and line managers covering a range of issues both directly and indirectly related to the management of stress. These cover financial advice, job search, managing change and completing application forms, as well as general support from the Department's Employee Assistance Programme.

When a member of DCLG staff is diagnosed with work-based stress either by their GP or the Department's Occupational Health Adviser, he or she is referred by their line manager or HR to the Employee Assistance Programme. Where appropriate, the line manager will also conduct a stress risk assessment in line with the Health and Safety Executive Stress Management Standards and put in place any adjustments recommended by the GP or the Occupational Health Adviser.

### Third Sector

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department provided to each charity it funds in each of the last five years; and how much he has allocated for funding to each such charity in each of the next five years. [48287]

**Robert Neill:** The Department's records do not differentiate between payments made to charities and other voluntary and community sector organisations. A list of payments made under section 70 of the Charities Act 2006 to charities and voluntary groups is published in the Department's annual report and resource accounts on a yearly basis.

This information includes payments made by the Department to charities in each year. Departmental annual reports and resource accounts for each year are published on the Department's website. Grant spending over £500 since 2008-09 is also published on the website as part of my Department's broader transparency agenda.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to answer question 35814 tabled on 19 January 2011 for answer on 21 January 2011 on London borough councils. [44110]

**Robert Neill:** I will reply to the hon. Member in due course with a substantive and comprehensive answer on the representations and the steps we have taken to address them.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Departmental Hospitality

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on the contents of ministerial drinks cabinets since 12 May 2010. [48398]

**Damian Green:** No money has been spent by the Home Department on the contents of ministerial drinks cabinets since 12 May 2010.

### Asylum: Finance

**Shabana Mahmood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the future funding of charities which support asylum seekers. [48993]

**Damian Green:** My officials and I have received a number of letters from MPs and other interested parties on this issue.

### Crime

**Gloria De Piero:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on any relationship between levels of street lighting and levels of crime. [48238]

**James Brokenshire:** In 2002 the Home Office commissioned and published a systematic review of existing research evidence on the effects of improved street lighting. This can be found on the Home Office website at:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/hors251.pdf

The report analysed eight US studies and five British studies and concluded that the evidence showed that improved street lighting reduced crime. An updated review of the evidence by the same authors published in 2008 by the Campbell Collaboration came to the same conclusion. This can be found via the following link:

http://www.campbellcollaboration.org/news_/improved_street_lighting_reduce_crime.php

### Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on *(a)* salaries and *(b)* pension entitlements for special advisers in the financial year 2010-11 to date. [46575]

**Damian Green:** Data sets which outline the number and cost of special advisers at specified dates are published quarterly on the Cabinet Office website.

The latest list, which includes an estimate of the total pay bill costs for 2010-11, was published on 10 March 2011 and can be accessed via the following link:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

This estimated pay bill includes pension costs.

Details of pension arrangements for special advisers are set out in the Model contract for Special Advisers, which can also be accessed on the Cabinet Office website.

### Drugs: Crime

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment her Department has made of the effect on demand of trends in the street price of hard drugs. [48610]

**James Brokenshire:** The Home Office has not commissioned or evaluated research on the relationship between trends in the street price of hard drugs and the effect on demand.

Street prices of drugs vary considerably and are dependent on a number of factors such as availability and purity. Trends in prevalence of drug use in the general population are measured through the British Crime Survey and data for 2010-11 will be available in July 2011. Findings from the 2009-10 survey show that levels of last year Class A use among adults aged 16 to

59 were 3.1% in 2009-10 (around 1 million adults), which is lower than in 2008-09 (3.7%) and at similar levels to 1996 (2.7%).

### Drugs: Young People

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects of reductions in local government spending on levels of drug abuse among young people; and if she will make a statement. [40591]

**Sarah Teather:** I have been asked to reply.

As the National Drug Strategy, published in December 2010, makes clear, local authorities are best placed to decide what services are required for preventing drug and alcohol misuse amongst young people in their area, and for intervening early when young people start to develop problems.

The Early Intervention Grant allows local authorities the flexibility to develop the most appropriate approach to supporting vulnerable young people, including those at risk of substance misuse. Alongside this, the Young People's Pooled Treatment Budget which has been maintained at £25.4 million for 2011-12 provides funding for specialist substance misuse services for young people.

### Entry Clearances: Multinational Companies

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visa applications for intra-company transfers were *(a)* approved and *(b)* rejected in each year since 2009. [49023]

**Damian Green:** In 2009, 22,029 intra-company transfer visa applications were issued and 1,171 were refused. In 2010, 29,176 were issued and 1,106 were refused.

| | *2009* | *2010* |
|---|---|---|
| Issued | 22,029 | 29,176 |
| Refused | 1,171 | 1,106 |

*Note:*
The data are based on management information. They are provisional and subject to change.
*Source:*
CRS

### Gangs

**Vernon Coaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made in implementing the recommendations of the joint thematic review on the management of gang issues published in June 2010. [48346]

**Mr Blunt:** I have been asked to reply.

The report raises important issues about how we tackle gangs both at local and national level. We are considering our response in the light of the Government's focus on greater local accountability and the need to develop local solutions based on local needs. We are committed to working with partners to tackle gang-related crime and provide support to help people leave the gang lifestyle.

### Departmental Plants

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on indoor and outdoor plants and trees since her appointment. [48420]

**Damian Green:** A limited amount of planting is provided through the 2002 PFI contract in some of the internal and external shared areas of our headquarters building, the costs of which are not charged separately. Elsewhere on the Department's estate figures on plants and trees costs are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Third Sector

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department provided to each charity it funds in each of the last five years; and how much she has allocated for funding to each such charity in each of the next five years. [48276]

**Damian Green:** Although the Home Office and UK Border Agency have made grant payments to fund charitable organisations over the past five years and may continue to do so in the future, it would not be possible to fully answer this question to the level of detail required without incurring disproportionate cost. To do so would require investigating more than 300 not-for-profit recipients, and identifying whether they, in turn, make payments to charities as a lead partner.

As with all grant funding in the Home Office and agencies, grants paid to charities are monitored to ensure that recipients deliver the objectives of individual projects as well as contributing to the strategic aims of the Department.

The Criminal Records Bureau and the Identity and Passport Service have not provided any funding to charities over the previous five years and have not allocated any budget to fund charities over the spending review period.

## TRANSPORT

### Cycling: Brighton and Hove

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has had discussions with Brighton and Hove city council on its proposal to use the Transport and Maintenance (LTP) capital grant to remove cycle lanes along both sides of Grand Avenue and The Drive; and if he will make a statement. [42877]

**Norman Baker:** Neither the Secretary of State for Transport nor I have had discussions with Brighton and Hove city council on its proposal to use the Transport and Maintenance (LTP) capital grant to remove cycle lanes along both sides of Grand Avenue and The Drive. Cycling England is following up this issue with Brighton and Hove city council at present. It is for local communities to decide how best to invest local funds.

### Departmental Public Appointments

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which public bodies sponsored by his Department *(a)* have been and *(b)* are to be closed, merged or reorganised following his appointment; and how many (i) women and (ii) men who are public appointees at each body will no longer hold such an appointment in consequence. [47097]

**Norman Baker:** The coalition Government are committed to increasing the accountability of public bodies, and this involves reducing their number and their cost to the taxpayer. The proposals for the majority of bodies across all Departments were announced and published on 14 October 2010. An updated list reflecting changes since October 2010 has been published on the Cabinet Office website this month.

Summary information on public appointments is published annually by the Cabinet Office. This includes data on gender. Copies of the most recent report can be downloaded from:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/ndpb

### Driving Offences: Mobile Phones

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road accidents were caused by the driver using a mobile telephone in each of the last two years for which figures are available; how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group (i) were killed, (ii) were seriously injured and (iii) received minor injuries; and how many such people had been travelling in the vehicle as (A) the driver, (B) a front seat passenger and (C) a rear seat passenger. [48867]

**Mike Penning:** There were 323 reported personal injury road accidents in Great Britain in 2008, where a police officer attended the scene and "driver using mobile phone" was reported as a contributory factor.

The corresponding figure for 2009 was 325 reported accidents. This contributory factor includes 'hand held' and 'hands free' phones, where their use (or attempted use) contributed to the accident.

Further information requested is given in tables 1 to 3.

*Table 1: Casualties in reported road accidents where the contributory factor "driver using mobile phone" was reported, by gender and age, GB: 2008-09*

| | | *Number of casualties* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Year of accident* | *Age of casualty* | *(a) Male* | *(b) Female* | *Total* |
| 2008 | 0-15 | 15 | 14 | 29 |
| | 15-24 | 69 | 56 | 125 |
| | 25-64 | 193 | 113 | 306 |
| | >65 | 16 | 11 | 27 |
| | All ages[1] | 295 | 194 | 489 |
| 2009 | 0-15 | 22 | 17 | 39 |
| | 15-24 | 60 | 61 | 121 |
| | 25-64 | 178 | 145 | 323 |
| | >65 | 10 | 9 | 19 |
| | All ages[1] | 273 | 236 | 509 |

[1] Includes cases where age was not reported.

*Table 2: Casualties in reported road accidents where the contributory factor "driver using mobile phone" was reported, by severity, GB: 2008-09*

| | *Severity of casualties* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Year of accident* | *(i) Killed* | *Serious* | *(iii) Slight* | *All severities* |
| 2008 | 19 | 71 | 399 | 489 |
| 2009 | 15 | 68 | 426 | 509 |

*Table 3: Casualties in reported road accidents where the contributory factor "driver using mobile phone" was reported, by casualty class, GB: 2008-09*

| | *Vehicles with a contributory factor of "driver using mobile phone"* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Car occupants* | | | *Other vehicle occupants* | | |
| *Year of accident* | *(A) Driver* | *(B) Front seat passenger*[1] | *(C) Rear seat passenger*[1] | *(A Driver or rider* | *(B+C) Passenger* | *Other casualties*[2] |
| 2008 | 137 | 15 | 11 | 39 | 3 | 284 |
| 2009 | 137 | 21 | 21 | 20 | 3 | 307 |

[1] Seat positions can only be identified for car passengers.

[2] Includes pedestrians and occupants of other vehicles for which this contributory factor was not reported.

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of drivers of each (a) sex and *(b)* age group who regularly use a mobile telephone whilst driving; and if he will make a statement. [48868]

**Mike Penning:** Questions about frequency of using a hand-held mobile phone to speak or text while driving were asked as part of a survey of attitudes to road safety in 2010, with results available broken down by age and gender. The results of this survey are available on the DFT website:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research/rsrr/theme5/natcen2010survey/

### Driving Tests: Yeovil

**Mr Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made in identifying a new site for a practical driving test centre in Yeovil; and if he will make a statement. [48575]

**Mike Penning:** The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) has identified alternative premises in Yeovil from which to deliver driving tests. Terms are provisionally agreed and the agency expects to legally secure the premises by 1 June 2011.

### Large Goods Vehicles

**Mr Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of heavy goods vehicles registered overseas which used roads in England in each of the last five years. [47750]

**Mike Penning** *[holding answer 18 March 2011]:* According to the Department for Transport's "Survey of Foreign Road Goods Vehicles United Kingdom 2009", there were 1,459,600 trips to the United Kingdom by foreign registered HGVs in 2009.

They are estimated to have travelled 0.948 billion vehicle kilometres in the UK in 2009, which is 4.8% of the 18.8 billion vehicle kilometres driven by UK-registered HGVs. Separate figures for England are not available.

Foreign-registered HGV statistics for the years 2000 and 2003 can be found on the DfT website. Statistics have not been compiled for other years.

## Motor Vehicles: Safety Belts

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has made an estimate of the number of *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group who regularly (i) wear and (ii) do not wear a seat belt in the (A) front and (B) rear seats; and if he will make a statement. [48869]

**Mike Penning:** Estimates of the proportion of male and female car occupants (i) wearing and (ii) not wearing a seatbelt in observational surveys carried out in 2009 are shown in the following table, broken down by age group and seating position.

*Proportion of car occupants (i) wearing and (ii) not wearing a seatbelt or other restraint, weekdays: Department for Transport observational surveys, November 2009*

| | | Male | | Female | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Age | % wearing | % not wearing | % wearing | % not wearing |
| Driver | 17 to 29 | 92 | 8 | 96 | 4 |
| | 30 to 59 | 93 | 7 | 98 | 2 |
| | 60+ | 95 | 5 | 99 | 1 |
| | All | 93 | 7 | 98 | 2 |
| Front seat passenger | 0 to 13 | 91 | 9 | 99 | 1 |
| | 14 to 29 | 88 | 12 | 94 | 6 |
| | 30 to 59 | 93 | 7 | 97 | 3 |
| | 60+ | 97 | 3 | 98 | 2 |
| | All | 92 | 8 | 97 | 3 |
| Rear seat passenger | 0 to 4 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 0 |
| | 5 to 9 | 96 | 4 | 97 | 3 |
| | 10 to 13 | 91 | 9 | 93 | 7 |
| | 14+ | 78 | 22 | 79 | 21 |
| | All | 89 | 11 | 90 | 10 |

Questions about frequency of not wearing a seatbelt as a driver and as a passenger were asked as part of a survey of attitudes to road safety in 2010, with results available broken down by age and gender. The results of this survey are available on the DfT website:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research/rsrr/theme5/natcen2010survey/

## Motorways: Speed Limits

**Mr Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of *(a)* the likely cost to the public purse of increasing the motorway speed limit to 80mph and *(b)* the effect of such an increase on the annual number of road deaths. [45329]

**Mike Penning:** No estimate has yet been made by the present Administration of the likely costs and impacts of increasing the motorway speed limit to 80 mph. Any such estimation would be considered as part of the implementation of our new road safety strategy, which we expect to publish in May.

## Railways: Electrification

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has had discussions with representatives of Network Rail on the upgrading of the electrified third rail on south east rail lines; and if he will make a statement. [46979]

**Mrs Villiers:** I meet regularly with senior representatives of Network Rail and the train operators to review operational performance. These meetings have included discussion about the operation of the 'top contact' third rail electrification system during severe winter weather. The rail industry is currently looking at ways of making the network more resilient in such conditions.

## Railways: Finance

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 17-18WS, on local and regional rail services, what estimate his Department has made of the effects on rail overcrowding of changes to funding arrangements for local rail schemes up to April 2015. [45258]

**Mrs Villiers:** The changes in funding arrangements will have no impact on overcrowding as the services funded by local authorities and Passenger Transport Executives (PTEs) operate on lightly used routes or at quieter times of day.

## Renewable Fuels Agency

**Mr Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many employees the Renewable Fuels Agency has; and what the cost to his Department of that body was in each of the last three years. [48171]

**Norman Baker:** The Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA) currently employs 12 staff and is carrying two vacancies. The RFA's budget in 2010-11 was £1.75 million. This has subsequently been reduced to £1.57 million. In financial years 2009-10 and 2008-09 the RFA was funded as now by grant in aid from the Department for Transport and the costs were £1.36 million and £1.32 million respectively in those years.

## Roads: Accidents

**Guto Bebb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has assessed the merits of introducing stricter liability rules for drivers involved in collisions with pedestrians and cyclists for the purposes of making it easier for victims of negligent drivers to claim compensation. [37255]

**Mike Penning:** I do not consider that there is merit in a change from the current arrangements in favour of stricter liability. The general principle in considering negligence is that the victim needs to prove that the defendant's actions caused the accident. It would be an anomaly if this was changed for collisions with pedestrians and cyclists. Also, it could lead to unfair results in cases where the motorist is driving entirely responsibly and the accident is caused by the irresponsible or negligent behaviour of a cyclist or pedestrian.

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many pregnant women in each age group were *(a)* killed, *(b)* severely injured and *(c)* slightly injured in road accidents when travelling in the vehicle as (i) the driver, (ii) a front seat passenger and (iii) a rear seat passenger in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many were (A) wearing and (B) not wearing a seat belt at the time of the accident. [48998]

**Mike Penning:** The information requested is not available. Information on whether the women involved in accidents are pregnant is not routinely collected by the police.

## Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding his Department has allocated to each local authority for road improvement in each year since 1997. [45839]

**Norman Baker:** The Department for Transport provides local authorities outside of London with Integrated Transport Block funding for small scale transport schemes; Highway Maintenance Block funding for maintenance of local highways; and Major Project funding for transport schemes over £5 million. Integrated Transport Block and Major Project funding is not solely dedicated to road improvements and Highway Maintenance Block funding is for structures (e.g. bridges and street lighting) as well as roads.

Local authority funding allocations for the Integrated Transport and Highway Maintenance blocks for the period 2000-01 to 2010-11 are available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/localauthorities/funding/fundingstreams/

Different funding arrangements were in place for both funding streams before 2000-01.

Major scheme funding by local authority in relation to road projects for the period 2006-07 to 2009-10 is outlined in the following table. Data before 2006-07 are not available.

*Major scheme spend*

*£000*

| *Authority* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barnsley metropolitan borough council | 0 | 0 | 4,156 | 12,456 |
| Bedfordshire county council | 0 | 2,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Birmingham city council | 15,446 | 5,950 | 2,518 | 10,395 |
| Buckinghamshire county council | 22,658 | 11,705 | 0 | 0 |
| Central Bedfordshire council | 8,825 | 6,655 | 2,547 | 171 |
| Cheshire East borough council | 0 | 0 | 4,881 | 24,181 |
| Darlington borough council | 2,153 | 6,199 | 4,070 | 0 |
| Derby city council | 2,513 | 0 | 2,460 | 9,499 |
| Derbyshire county council | 11,960 | 3,575 | 8,900 | 425 |
| Devon county council | 11,410 | 1,124 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Dorset county council | 0 | 0 | 17,628 | 28,831 |
| Dudley metropolitan borough council | 2,126 | 8,819 | 7,320 | 4,559 |
| Durham county council | 300 | 6,069 | 4,084 | 347 |
| Essex county council | 0 | 1,200 | 0 | 4,600 |
| Hertfordshire county council | 3,250 | 1,300 | 763 | 602 |
| Kent county council | 10,000 | 1,000 | 374 | 17,956 |
| Leeds city council | 28,484 | 12,557 | 8,725 | 263 |
| Leicestershire county council | 0 | 6,341 | 9,662 | 39 |
| Lincolnshire county council | 5,825 | 7,975 | 29,937 | 33,436 |
| Liverpool city council | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4,289 |
| Medway council | 200 | 200 | 0 | 0 |
| Middlesbrough council | 0 | 0 | 6,335 | 5,929 |
| Newcastle-Upon-Tyne city | 2,809 | 839 | 200 | 200 |
| North Yorkshire county council | 8,051 | 14,967 | 13,318 | 0 |
| Northamptonshire county council | 6,200 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Northumberland county council | 2,710 | 257 | 183 | 5 |
| Nottingham city council | 2,800 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Poole borough council | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,425 |
| Reading borough council | 0 | 0 | 31,374 | 27,597 |
| Rotherham metropolitan borough council | 2,060 | 2,405 | 563 | 1,102 |
| Rutland county council | 7,811 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Salford city council | 847 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sandwell metropolitan borough council | 0 | 5,000 | 8,507 | 8,349 |
| Sheffield city council | 3,700 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Somerset county council | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,469 |
| South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive | 933 | 1,064 | 2,000 | 0 |
| St Helens metropolitan borough council | 5,800 | 0 | 91 | 879 |
| Staffordshire county council | 8,800 | 4,300 | 600 | 0 |
| Stockton-on-Tees borough council | 200 | 400 | 0 | 0 |
| Stoke-on-Trent city council | 1,856 | 3,306 | 0 | 0 |
| Suffolk county council | 0 | 0 | 6,827 | 5,173 |

*Major scheme spend*

| *Authority* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *£000*<br>*2009-10* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sunderland city council | 8,615 | 2,445 | 0 | 0 |
| Wakefield metropolitan borough council | 0 | 6,054 | 17,654 | 5,627 |
| Warwickshire county council | 5,981 | 11,254 | 12,685 | 13 |
| Total | 194,323 | 134,959 | 209,361 | 211,817 |

Separate arrangements are in place for local transport funding in London.

## DEFENCE

### Armed Forces

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to examine future proposals for capability reductions consistent with the level of scrutiny applied to such proposals in the strategic defence and security review. [49105]

**Nick Harvey:** The strategic defence and security review (SDSR) identified the forces and capabilities required to protect our national interests until 2020. Any reductions or enhancements to that force structure will be scrutinised against that strategic guidance. This will be reviewed at the next SDSR.

### Armed Forces: Housing

**Caroline Dinenage:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force has made of current and future requirements for community policing within the estate of its married quarters. [47883]

**Mr Robathan** *[holding answer 23 March 2011]:* A range of options for the Ministry of Defence's future requirement for civil policing services is currently under consideration. No final decisions have yet been taken.

### Armed Forces: Officers

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many late entry commissioned officers reached the rank of full colonel or above, or its equivalent in each of the three services in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [48779]

**Nick Harvey:** It is not possible to provide information which distinguishes between the equivalent of late entry commissioned officers and direct entry officers in the Royal Navy and RAF without incurring disproportionate cost.

In the Army, late entry terms of service do not currently permit promotion beyond lieutenant colonel. However, it is possible, in some circumstances, for late entry officers to apply to transfer to direct entry terms of service that allow promotion beyond lieutenant colonel in competition.

Of those in this category the following promotions to substantive colonel have taken place each year:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2006 | 3 |
| 2007 | 1 |
| 2008 | 0 |
| 2009 | 0 |
| 2010 | 1 |

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK serving commissioned officers are working in British embassies and high commissions; and how many of these are *(a)* direct entry and *(b)* late entry commissioned officers. [48781]

**Peter Luff:** There are 112 UK serving commissioned officers working in 72 Defence sections in British embassies. Of these, 108 are direct entry officers and four are late entry commissioned officers.

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many commissioned officers including direct entry and late entry commissioned officers appointed to roles in the Ministry of Defence building in Whitehall are *(a)* of or above and *(b)* below the rank of lieutenant colonel or its equivalent; [48782]

(2) how many *(a)* commissioned officers excluding late entry and *(b)* late entry commissioned officers were appointed to roles based in the Ministry of Defence building in Whitehall in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [48783]

**Nick Harvey:** As at 1 January 2011, there were 580 officers at lieutenant colonel, and equivalent, and above, and 380 at major, or equivalent, and below, stationed in the MOD's Main Building and Old War Office in Whitehall.

Information on whether or not an officer is a late entry commissioned officer is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Armed Forces: Pensions

**Nick Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research his Department has undertaken on the effect of using the consumer prices index when uprating benefits for army invalid pensioners and war widows under pensionable age. [42875]

**Nick Harvey:** None. The Treasury has taken the decision across the public service. Calculations and research have not been carried out by each Department for itself.

### British Antarctic Survey

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the relationship is between his Department and the British Antarctic Survey. [49029]

**Nick Harvey:** The Ministry of Defence provides a range of logistic support to the British Antarctic Survey (BAS). BAS utilises the Falkland Islands military airbridge and has access to East Cove Military Port in the Falkland Islands for water, fuel and other stores. Both services come at a cost to the BAS. Moreover, our Royal Navy vessels patrolling the South Atlantic make regular port calls to BAS bases on South Georgia. The Royal Navy ice patrol vessel which is present in the region throughout the austral summer provides some logistical support to BAS assets in Antarctica.

### Community Policing: Housing

**Caroline Dinenage:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment has been made of the effect of a move towards tri-service accommodation on requirements for community policing. [47884]

**Nick Harvey** *[holding answer 23 March 2011]:* The requirement for dedicated community policing support for service personnel and their families living in Service Family Accommodation in the UK is determined by an assessment of all relevant information, including local issues and any specific community needs.

### Departmental Hospitality

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on the contents of ministerial drinks cabinets since 12 May 2010. [48404]

**Mr Robathan:** Nothing.

### Departmental Public Bodies

**Tessa Jowell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. [48683]

**Peter Luff:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 942W, to the hon. Member for Hemsworth (Jon Trickett).

### Departmental Theft

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what items with a value of over £100 have been taken without authorisation from his Department since his appointment; and what steps have been taken to recover such items. [48446]

**Peter Luff:** Information regarding items with a value of over £100 taken without authorisation will be placed in the Library of the House.

The National Crime Recording Standards and Home Office Counting Rules require Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) to record all crimes committed or alleged to have been committed on the Ministry of Defence (MOD) estate. On receipt of these allegations MDP will assess them on their merit and will either investigate the allegation itself, or pass them to the appropriate law enforcement agency to undertake any further investigation it deems necessary in accordance with the relevant policing protocol.

The MDP has actively promoted a number of crime reduction initiatives throughout the MOD. One such initiative is the "office watch" scheme, which encourages the safeguarding of MOD offices and MOD property by raising awareness of staff, in relation to their own and others' personal property, as well as property of the MOD. The MDP also has 81 Defence Community Police Officers (DCPOs), who are trained crime reduction officers working in MOD establishments across the country. These officers provide an effective deterrent to potential criminals, by raising the awareness of staff, service personnel, service families and contractors. At sites where there are no trained MDP crime reduction personnel present, all staff, and also contractors and visitors, are encouraged to work together to make their places of employment and homes safer and more secure.

### HMS Endurance

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate his Department has made of the cost of base porting the future Antarctic Patrol Ship at Devonport alongside the other ships of the Hydrographic Survey Squadron; [48908]

(2) what progress he has made in replacing the capability formerly provided by HMS Endurance. [49027]

**Nick Harvey:** On 22 March 2011 the Ministry of Defence signed a contract, worth £26 million, with GC Rieber Shipping to lease an ice-breaking vessel to deliver the UK's ice patrol capability for at least the next three years. This is an interim replacement for HMS Endurance while we consider how best to deliver this important capability in the long term.

The interim replacement ice patrol ship will be named HMS Protector and will be base ported at Her Majesty's Naval Base Portsmouth, reflecting the base porting arrangements that are in place for HMS Endurance. We expect to make decisions on the longer term delivery of this capability, including base porting arrangements and their costs and the future of HMS Endurance, next year.

### HMS Scott

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps are being taken to provide the capability usually provided by HMS Scott while she is fulfilling the role of Antarctic patrol vessel. [49028]

**Nick Harvey:** HMS Echo and HMS Enterprise have provided the Royal Navy with its hydrographic data gathering capability while HMS Scott has been in the South Atlantic. Tasking of these three ships continues to take account of their respective capabilities in order to ensure that the Royal Navy's requirements are met.

### Navy: Officers

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many sea-going commands he expects there to be for Royal Navy officers of the rank of captain in 2012. [48956]

**Nick Harvey:** On current planning it is expected that there will be eight sea-going commands for the rank of Captain Royal Navy in 2012; they are HMS Illustrious, Ocean, Bulwark, Albion, Daring, Dauntless, Westminster and Protector.

### Rescue Services

**Mr Donohoe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many call-outs were attended by *(a)* RNAS Prestwick, *(b)* RAF Boulmer, *(c)* RAF Chivenor, *(d)* DST Leconfield, *(e)* RAF Valley, *(f)* RAF Wattisham, *(g)* RNAS Culdrose, *(h)* HMCG Lee-on-the-Solent, *(i)* HMCG Portland, *(j)* HMCG Stornoway, *(k)* HMCG Sumburgh and *(l)* RAF Lossiemouth in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [48263]

**Nick Harvey:** The Information requested is shown in the following table:

| | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RNAS Culdrose | 228 | 231 | 204 | 311 | 260 |
| HMS Gannet | 269 | 359 | 382 | 447 | 379 |
| RMB Chivenor | 293 | 256 | 262 | 340 | 339 |
| DST Leconfield | 147 | 222 | 232 | 204 | 174 |
| Wattisham Airfield | 163 | 183 | 174 | 162 | 133 |
| RAF Boulmer | 206 | 170 | 211 | 214 | 193 |
| RAF Lossiemouth | 217 | 188 | 275 | 236 | 175 |
| RAF Valley | 225 | 234 | 222 | 322 | 268 |
| Sumburgh | 106 | 72 | 109 | 112 | 122 |
| Stornoway | 152 | 130 | 170 | 183 | 206 |
| Lee-on-Solent | 200 | 220 | 220 | 217 | 228 |
| Portland | 201 | 196 | 220 | 235 | 213 |

Data on search and rescue call-outs are regularly published at the following website:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=47

### Reserve Forces

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps have been taken to seek contributions from reserve forces to his Department's Reserve Forces study. [48113]

**Peter Luff:** In January of this year a web-based survey was launched to gauge the opinion of Reserve personnel and their employers. This survey was publicised through the chain of command and in-house defence publications. In the month that it was online, the survey received approximately 7,500 responses which are currently being collated and analysed. Senior Reservist personnel have also been co-opted on to the bodies overseeing the study, and a number of written submissions from Reservists and others have been received.

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department's Reserve Forces study is to examine the merits of greater integration of reservists with regular forces. [48116]

**Peter Luff:** The future extent of reservist integration with Regular forces is a central component of the study. To develop the role played by the Reserve forces and deliver cost effectiveness for Defence we believe there are several avenues for investigation. We are also analysing the extent to which other nations (particularly the US) integrate their Reserve and Regular components.

### Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the long-term future of fast jet aviation in the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm; and if he will make a statement. [48948]

**Nick Harvey:** As announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review, the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm will operate the carrier variant of the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) jointly with the Royal Air Force.

### Warships: Decommissioning

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the expected decommissioning dates are for *(a)* RFA Gold Rover, *(b)* RFA Black Rover, *(c)* RFA Orangeleaf, *(d)* RFA Bayleaf, *(e)* RFA Fort Austin and *(f)* RFA Fort Rosalie. [48946]

**Nick Harvey:** Our present planning assumptions are that those ships that will be withdrawn from service are as follows:

RFA Gold Rover—2016
RFA Black Rover—2017
RFA Orangeleaf—2015
RFA Bayleaf—2011
RFA Fort Austin—2021
RFA Fort Rosalie—2022.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Abdelbasit Ali Mohmed al-Megrahi

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the whereabouts of Abdelbaset al-Megrahi; and if he will make a statement. [48999]

**Alistair Burt:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has received no recent reports on the whereabouts of Abdelbaset al-Megrahi.

### Afghanistan: Detainees

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on the detention of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay. [47562]

**Mr Hague:** We believe that the indefinite detention of detainees is unacceptable, and we have repeatedly called for Guantanamo Bay to be closed. On 6 July 2010 the Prime Minister confirmed to Parliament that we will continue to request the release from Guantanamo Bay and return to the UK of Shaker Aamer, the final remaining former legal British resident. The Government have reiterated this request to the US Government on numerous occasions. Both the Deputy Prime Minister and I have raised Mr Aamer's case with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. We are actively engaged at senior official level in pursuing our request with the US Administration. However, the outcome of these discussions is uncertain and any decision regarding Mr Aamer's release is a matter for the United States Government.

### Belarus: Human Rights

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to promote respect for human rights in Belarus. [45325]

**Mr Hague:** The UK is at the forefront of efforts within the EU and the wider international community to bring pressure to bear on the Belarusian authorities, following the fraudulent election and crackdown on the opposition and human rights defenders last December. We have been vocal in advocating a tough EU response, such as re-imposing targeted sanctions on the individuals responsible for human rights abuses. We have repeatedly demanded the release of those detained on political grounds, both at a national level and through our membership of international organisations, such as the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Council of Europe and at the UN Council on Human Rights.

### Boarding Schools

**Mr Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials in his Department are eligible for assistance for boarding school fees for their children; how many officials receive such assistance; and what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median levels of assistance provided in respect of each child were in the latest period for which figures are available. [48519]

**Alistair Burt:** It is a condition of their employment that members of the diplomatic service must be prepared to serve anywhere in the world at any time during their career, sometimes at very short notice. Those with children have a legal obligation as parents to ensure that their children receive a full-time education from the age of five years. Most parents prefer to take their children with them abroad, but in some countries we do not permit staff to take their children either for health or security reasons. In others, local schools of an acceptable standard are not available. Continuity of education is also an important factor, particularly at secondary level.

So it is longstanding practice that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) helps staff meet their potentially conflicting obligations by providing financial support for their children's education in the UK where staff choose this, or are obliged to do so given local conditions in the country to which they are posted.

FCO staff who are required to work at our diplomatic missions overseas may claim financial assistance towards UK boarding school costs for their children, provided that they meet specific eligibility criteria. The FCO refunds standard term fees up to a ceiling which is reviewed annually and determined by an independent survey conducted by ECA International, which is used by public and private sector employers whose staff work across the world.

During the academic year 2009-10, 339 officers received Continuity of Education Allowance for 521 children. This represents about 6% of staff employed in the FCO and FCO Services (a trading fund for which the FCO is responsible). The average sum paid by the FCO per child in FY 2009-10 was £17,342. The median figure was £17,008. Three-quarters of the recipients are below the senior management grade in the FCO (equivalent to the SCS), including junior support staff and single parents.

More than half the children for whom Continuity of Education Allowance is paid are of secondary school age, when continuity is particularly important in the key two year GCSE and A-level course periods. The figures include the cost of low to moderate special needs support where required. This provision is benchmarked against the provision at School Action and School Action Plus in the state school sector. The figures do not include the cost of the education provided by the FCO for one child with severe learning difficulties.

### Christianity: Religious Freedom

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received in respect of the treatment of Christians in *(a)* North Africa and *(b)* the Middle East. [48595]

**Alistair Burt:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has received and continues to receive regular representations from parliamentarians and members of the public about the situation for Christians across the middle east and north Africa. The number of representations rose sharply after the tragic attacks against Christian groups in Iraq and Egypt in late 2010.

The Government are greatly concerned about those who are denied the right to freedom of religion or belief. We condemn all instances of violence and discrimination against individuals and groups because of their faith or belief, wherever they occur or whatever the religion of the individual or group concerned. We, together with international partners, regularly make clear to governments across the region the importance we place on promoting cultural and religious tolerance and on eliminating all legal provisions and policies which discriminate against different religious communities.

### Croatia: EU Enlargement

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the progress of negotiations for the potential accession to the EU of Croatia. [49270]

**Mr Lidington:** Croatia has now closed 28 out of 35 chapters of its accession negotiations. Croatia is making good progress with its reforms but still has a number of benchmark requirements to meet, particularly within Chapter 23 (Judiciary and Fundamental Rights) and Chapter 8 (Competition). The Government are strong supporters of Croatian EU accession. We look forward to seeing Croatia join the EU once the criteria have been met.

### Departmental Theft

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what items with a value of over £100 have been taken without authorisation from his Department since his appointment; and what steps have been taken to recover such items. [48441]

**Alistair Burt:** The information required is held separately in various Foreign and Commonwealth Office departments, all of which hold records relating to various losses and thefts of both personal property and official furnishings, including Information Technology equipment losses. As this information is not held centrally, providing an accurate answer would incur disproportionate cost.

### Egypt: Freezing Orders

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with which of his EU counterparts he has discussed the request from the Egyptian authorities for an asset freeze; and on what date each such discussion took place. [48339]

**Mr Hague:** We have been at the forefront of arguments within the EU to take action on requests from the Egyptian authorities.

I discussed this issue with my EU counterparts at the Foreign Affairs Council on 21 February. The freeze was agreed on 21 March 2011.

### English Language: BBC World Service

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in which countries BBC World Service radio broadcasts of programmes in the English language are not accessible. [45876]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) World Service in English is available worldwide via the internet.

The large majority of countries can access the BBC World Service English radio broadcasts. In others, the BBC feels it is more effective to serve these areas through its distribution of BBC World News, the BBC's international English language news and information television channel, or through radio broadcasts in the local language, such as BBC Arabic services.

### India: Human Rights

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to promote human rights in India; and if he will make a statement. [48362]

**Mr Hague:** The Government maintain an ongoing dialogue with the Government of India on human rights issues. We also play a leading role in the annual EU-India human rights dialogue which last took place on 22 March 2011.

In January this year a member of our high commission joined an EU delegation to observe the high profile trial of human rights defender Binayak Sen. Last year we took part in an EU visit to the state of Orissa to look at progress made since the violence against Christians in 2008. And last month we invited the legal director of the Equality and Human Rights Commission to take part in a joint EU-India Seminar on Social Inclusion. His visit included meetings with counterparts at the Indian National Human Rights Commission.

We continue to work with non-government organisations (NGOs) to help strengthen the capacity of institutions in India. Through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, the EU contributes €900,000 each year to human rights projects in India. The Department for International Development also works together with the Government of India and the NGO community to help ensure equal treatment and access to services for the most disadvantaged communities.

### Iraq: Iran

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of access to medical treatment for residents of Camp Ashraf. [47844]

**Alistair Burt:** We are aware of reports from camp residents claiming that they have been denied access to medical care. The Iraqi Government's Ashraf Committee has informed our embassy officials that residents are given access to medical treatment and that serious cases are referred to hospitals in Baghdad or Erbil in northern Iraq.

Our embassy in Baghdad will continue to urge the Ashraf Committee to ensure that the Iraqi authorities treat the residents of Camp Ashraf in accordance with international humanitarian standards.

### Japan: Earthquakes

**Ian Murray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the British Embassy in Japan was first contacted in regard to documentation for International Rescue Corps work in Japan; when the documentation requested was issued; and what the time taken was from initial request to issue of the documentation. [48693]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** On the evening of 15 March 2011, the International Rescue Corps (IRC) asked our embassy in Tokyo for a letter of support for a vehicle access pass for the expressway. The embassy faxed this letter, as a note verbale, to the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs at approximately 7 am on 16 March 2011, and followed up with phone calls to the Ministry.

The embassy contacted the IRC to keep them updated, but on 16 March the team decided to return to the UK.

**Ian Murray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his oral evidence to the Foreign Affairs Committee on 16 March 2011, HC 881-i, Q2, what the evidential basis was for his statement that the International Rescue Corps team in Japan did not have logistical, transport or language support. [48898]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** The statement was based on reports from our embassy in Tokyo.

**Ian Murray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reason the British Embassy in Japan did not provide authorisation for the International Rescue Corps to carry out rescue operations in that country. [48899]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** Decisions about whether or not to provide authorisation for rescue operations in Japan are for the Japanese Government. Our embassy in Tokyo wrote a formal letter of support to the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs on behalf of the International Rescue Corps.

### Japan: Overseas Aid

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support his Department is giving to the Japanese Government after the recent earthquake in that country. [47388]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** As the Prime Minister said in a statement to the House on 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 25, the UK Government deployed a 63-strong UK Search and Rescue team, which included medical personnel, on 13 March. They worked alongside US and Chinese rescue workers in Ofunato, clearing a large industrial district and residential area. The team returned from Japan on 19 March. The first UK aid of over 3,000 tents reached the disaster region on 20 March. We have also offered Disaster Victim Identification, humanitarian assistance and nuclear expertise to the Japanese Government. The Government stands ready to offer further humanitarian and other assistance as required.

### Middle East: Armed Conflict

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what discussions he has had with the Foreign Minister of the Palestinian Authority on the authority's commitment to ending incitement to violence against Israel; [48078]

(2) what reports he has received of cash awards made by the Palestinian Authority to the family of an individual who sought to kill Israeli soldiers in December 2010; [48079]

(3) what reports he has received on the naming of a youth football tournament in the West Bank in honour of Wafa Idris. [48081]

**Alistair Burt:** We are aware of the reports that my hon. Friend refers to. As I mentioned in my letter of 23 March 2011, the UK condemns all violence and any incitement to violence. It follows that we are strongly opposed to any payments of cash linked to violence.

### Palestinians: Diplomatic Relations

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the practical consequences of his decision on 7 March 2011 to upgrade the diplomatic status of the Palestinian delegation to the UK. [47763]

**Mr Hague:** As I set out in my joint press conference with President Abbas on 8 March 2011, the upgrade of the Palestinian General Delegation in London is in recognition of the significant progress that Prime Minister Fayyad and the Palestinian Authority have made, under the leadership of President Abbas, to build the foundations of a viable Palestinian state in line with their road map commitments.

The change includes upgrading the Palestinian Delegation to the status of a Mission and the position of the Head of Delegation to that of Head of Mission, a ceremony hosted by a Minister for new Heads of Mission, simplified visa arrangements for officials who work at the Mission and additional car parking. The upgrade does not require any amendment to the Diplomatic Privileges Act 1964 or the Diplomatic and Consular Premises Act 1987.

### Palestinians: Economic Situation

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the economic situation in Gaza; what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Government of Israel, *(b)* the Palestinian Authority, *(c)* the Government of Egypt, *(d)* the Arab League, *(e)* the Government of Jordan, *(f)* his EU counterparts and *(g)* the United Nations Secretary General on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [47694]

**Alistair Burt:** According to International Monetary Fund figures, economic growth across the Palestinian Territories was 6.8% in 2009. The west bank's economy grew at 7.2% in 2009; however, much of this growth was derived from higher Government spending and international aid rather than from exports, which fell in that period. The west bank's economy continues to be constrained by a number of factors, including movement and access constraints on goods and people, and poor investment confidence.

Gaza's economy grew at 5.4% in 2009 from a very low base after the damage incurred in Operation Cast Lead. We are concerned that Israeli access restrictions continue to stifle sustainable economic recovery in Gaza, and we look forward to the full implementation of Israel's commitments to allow Gazan exports to international markets, and to increase the flows of goods into the territory.

UK Ministers and officials regularly discuss the economic situation in the Palestinian Territories with the Palestinian Authority, Israel, regional countries, UN agencies, other donor countries and organisations.

### Peacekeeping Operations

**Richard Drax:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of future levels of demand by his Department for assistance from the armed forces for *(a)* evacuation of UK nationals abroad and *(b)* assistance to foreign government in civil emergencies; and if he will make a statement. [47555]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** We are reviewing the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's arrangements for leading the evacuation of British nationals in a crisis, which includes the option of military operations to evacuate British nationals. The review will be published once it has been considered by Ministers. Assistance to foreign governments is normally provided through civilian mechanisms, for example civilian search and rescue teams were deployed to both New Zealand and Japan after the earthquakes, and a civilian Disaster Victim Identification team was also deployed to New Zealand.

### Saudi Arabia: Politics and Government

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his counterpart in Saudi Arabia on political freedoms in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. [47762]

**Mr Hague:** We have a full and frank dialogue with our Saudi partners across a range of issues. We welcome the news, announced earlier this week, that the number of municipal councillors will be doubled and that the postponed municipal elections will now take place in September. On Tuesday 22 March, I had lunch with HRH Prince Saud Al Faisal in London where we exchanged views on regional issues of concern and developments in the Kingdom.

### Work-based Stress

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what arrangements are in place in his Department to *(a)* reduce levels of work-based stress and *(b)* provide assistance to staff diagnosed with such stress. [48207]

**Alistair Burt:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has a number of procedures in place to reduce stress at work and to offer support to those affected, including an e-learning package on stress and access to an employee assistance programme. A stress management framework, based on the Health and Safety Executive's management standards, is available to all employees and includes advice and practical help on the successful prevention, recognition and management of stress at work.

### Taliban: Arms Trade

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had in the UN Security Council on *(a)* the supply of weapons to the Taliban and *(b)* the application of international pressure on Iran to prevent such supply; and if he will make a statement. [49097]

**Alistair Burt:** We are deeply concerned by the latest evidence that elements in the Iranian system continue to supply the Taliban with weaponry, which is at odds with Iran's claim to support stability and security in Afghanistan.

This was most recently discussed in the UN Security Council on 22 March 2011, where we made clear our concerns and called for the UN Iran Sanctions Committee to investigate.

We will continue to push for full implementation of UN Security Council resolutions which prohibit such weapons transfers and support the Sanctions Committee pursuing and investigating sanctions violations. We have also made clear to the authorities in Tehran that such behaviour is completely unacceptable and should cease immediately.

### UN Security Council: Reform

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken on reform of the UN Security Council; and if he will make a statement. [48333]

**Mr Hague:** We remain supportive of the need for UN Security Council reform and are working with international partners on how to take this forward. As I said at Georgetown University on 17 November 2010. "we are ardent advocates of ... the reform of international institutions, including a more representative UN Security Council." At the last round of negotiations in New York on 2 March 2011, we welcomed the continuing work of Ambassador Tanin and called on all member states to engage constructively in the process of reform.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Access to Work Programme

**Margaret Curran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many contracts he expects to award for delivery of the Access to Work Programme. [48041]

**Maria Miller:** The Secretary of State expects to award seven contracts to deliver Access to Work assessments. These will be split in to geographical groups, as follows:

Scotland
North East England;
North West England;
Central England;
London and Home Counties;
Southern England;
Wales.

In addition, there will be seven further contracts to deliver mental health support services to Access to Work customers, based on the same geographical groups.

**Margaret Curran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to award separate contracts to deliver the Access to Work programme in England, Scotland and Wales. [48042]

**Maria Miller:** The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions intends to award separate contracts to deliver the access to work assessments and mental health support services in the following geographical groups:

Scotland
North East England

North West England
Central England
London and Home Counties
Southern England
Wales.

**Margaret Curran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on allowing prospective prime contractors for the new Access to Work contract to require small charities to sign exclusivity clauses when seeking to participate under the tender. [48043]

**Maria Miller:** The Secretary of State does not have a policy regarding prospective prime contractors requiring small charities to sign exclusivity clauses when seeking to participate in the Access to Work tender.

The Department for Work and Pensions encourages the use of small and medium enterprises in delivering our contracts wherever possible.

**Margaret Curran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to require contractors for the Access to Work Programme to promote assistance for people with *(a)* a mental health condition and *(b)* a learning disability; and if he will make a statement. [48044]

**Maria Miller:** It is our objective to promote employment opportunities for all disabled groups including people with mental health conditions and learning disabilities, including through Access to Work. Both groups feature in the contracting framework for external assessment for Access to Work.

### Children: Day Care

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of providing child care support to lone parent households where the youngest child turns five and the parents become subject to work search requirements in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14; [47733]

(2) how many additional lone parent households he estimates will require wraparound child care after work search requirements are extended to parents where the youngest child turns five in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14. [47734]

**Maria Miller:** The June 2010 Budget announced that the requirement for lone parents to prepare for and seek work as a condition of receiving benefits would be extended from those with a youngest child aged seven or over, to those with a youngest child aged five or over. We estimated in the recent impact assessment 'Conditionality Measures in the 2011 Welfare Reform Bill' that the change will help 20,000 to 25,000 extra lone parents into work in steady state.

There are a number of flexibilities in the job search requirements for lone parents, to cater for different needs and personal circumstances. For example, lone parents may limit the hours they are available for work to a minimum of 16 hours a week based on their caring responsibilities. In addition, those with children aged 12 or under have the right to restrict their availability for work to their children's normal school hours. Evidence suggests that lone parents use a range of and a mixture of formal and informal child care, some of which are state-funded.

Given these factors, we are not able to precisely estimate the additional child care that lone parents will use as a result of the policy.

However, we estimate that the policy will increase expenditure on tax credits and in-work credit by £240 million over the spending review period to March 2015, of which around 80% can be attributed to tax credits. This includes the child care element of the working tax credit, based on an assumed child care expenditure across all lone parents.

This does not take account of any changes introduced as a result of universal credit in 2013-14, although we have committed to overall expenditure on child care at least equivalent to that in the present system.

### Child Maintenance

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many parents called the Child Maintenance Options Service in 2009-10; how many went on to make or change a private maintenance arrangement; how many went on to make Child Support Agency (CSA) arrangements; and how many made neither a private arrangement nor a CSA arrangement. [46063]

**Maria Miller:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 11 March 2011:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many parents called the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission Options Service in 2009-10; how many went on to make or change a private maintenance arrangement; how many went on to make Child Support Agency (CSA) arrangements; and how many made neither a private arrangement nor a CSA arrangement. [46063]

In the 12 months to March 2010, the Child Maintenance Options service answered 142,601 inbound calls from 73,769 unique clients. It also made 143,889 successful outbound calls to 135,188 unique clients.

The Child Maintenance Options Service does not have published information on outcomes by individual caller or on a year by year basis, as some arrangements made one year may break down in the following year. An estimated 60,000 children were benefiting from a family-based arrangement which was effective following one or other parent contacting the Child Maintenance Options service between July 2008 and March 2010. From internal surveys, it is estimated that the number of children benefiting from a family-based arrangement has increased to 91,000 for parents contacting the Child Maintenance Options service up to October 2010.

This figure will be updated by a further internal survey at the end of March 2011 which will include an estimate of children benefiting from an effective CSA arrangement and those who have not yet made an arrangement.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

**Kate Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the estimates of likely take-up of family-based maintenance arrangements at paragraph 4 of his Department's impact assessment on the Child Maintenance Green Paper, if he will estimate the likely effect of the take-up of such arrangements on *(a)* the running costs of the proposed statutory child support system and *(b)* the number of cases to be handled under that system. [47335]

**Maria Miller:** The Department for Work and Pensions will produce estimates of the running costs of the proposed statutory child support system and the number of cases to be handled under that system when we publish detailed proposals in the form of draft regulations later in the year. The impact assessments for the draft regulations will set out the estimated impacts on costs and volumes.

**Kate Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects of his proposals to levy charges on parents who use the future child support scheme on (i) children living apart from one parent, (ii) parents with care, and (iii) non-resident parents; [47336]

(2) with reference to the proposed new charging regime for use of the statutory child maintenance service proposed in the 'Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility' Green Paper, what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the number of children who live in separated families for whom effective arrangements are in place for the purposes of determining the potential effects of the new charging regime on the number of such children with effective arrangements. [47905]

**Maria Miller:** The Department for Work and Pensions regularly reviews its research requirements. Specific research proposals are considered under a range of criteria, including evidence priorities and value for money.

The Green Paper 'Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child maintenance' has set out the coalition Government's vision for child maintenance. The research required to support these proposed policies will be considered against the wider departmental requirements.

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what proportion of the live and assessed caseload of the Child Support Agency is attributable to parents with care on income-related benefits; and what the average weekly child maintenance liability for this group *(a)* including and *(b)* excluding nil liability was in the latest period for which figures are available; [47345]

(2) what proportion of the live and assessed cases with a positive liability being handled by the Child Support Agency is attributable to parents with care on income-related benefits. [47346]

**Maria Miller:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what proportion of the live and assessed caseload of the Child Support Agency is attributable to parents with care on income-related benefits; and what the average weekly child maintenance liability for this group (a) including and (b) excluding nil liability was in the latest period for which figures are available [47345]; and

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what proportion of the live and assessed cases with a positive liability being handled by the Child Support Agency is attributable to parents with care on income-related benefits. [47346]

In the quarter ending May 2010, of the total live and assessed caseload, in 31% of cases the parent with care or their partner is on Income Support or income based Jobseeker's Allowance.

In the same period, of all cases with a positive child maintenance liability, in 30% of cases the parent with care or their partner is on Income Support or income based Jobseeker's Allowance.

The average weekly child maintenance assessment for cases where the parent with care or their partner is on Income Support or income based Jobseeker's Allowance is £14. Excluding cases that have a weekly child maintenance assessment of zero, the average amount is £23 per week. These figures are rounded to the nearest £1.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

## Disability Living Allowance

**Margaret Curran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has carried out an assessment of the likely effect on carers of his proposed reform to disability living allowance. [48112]

**Maria Miller:** We recognise the importance of DLA "passporting" the individual to other help and support and will take this into account in developing our reforms and in the design of personal independence payment (PIP). At this point the new assessment has not been finalised and the impact on carers will only be determined when this is completed.

We are working with disabled people and organisations who represent them on the detailed design and delivery of personal independence payment and we will consider carefully the outcome of the DLA reform consultation in developing the passport to CA entitlement from PIP. The outcomes from this work will be reflected in updates to the impact assessment for this change.

## Disability Living Allowance: Autism

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to ensure that people with evidence of autism will not be required to have face-to-face assessments to determine eligibility for disability living allowance. [47511]

**Maria Miller:** The Government propose to replace disability living allowance with personal independence payment in 2013-14. We are still considering the most appropriate delivery model for the personal independence payment assessment and no decisions have yet been taken, including how it will apply to existing DLA recipients. However, we believe that advice from a suitably trained and approved individual, for example a healthcare professional, will be an important part of ensuring that the assessment is more objective and consistent. In most cases, we expect this to involve a face-to-face consultation to enable an in-depth look at an individual's circumstances.

We know it is essential that the assessment accurately captures the needs of disabled people with autistic spectrum disorders and this is something that the development group is considering. For example, they believe that the new assessment should explicitly take account of the impact of a health condition or impairment, including autistic spectrum disorders, on an individual's ability to communicate. This would set it apart from the current DLA assessment. We also recognise the importance of ensuring that the assessment process is appropriate to an individual's circumstances, including individuals with autistic spectrum disorders. Both I and departmental officials have met with the National Autistic Society to discuss our reform proposals and to seek their views on how the new benefit can best support those with autism. We will continue to work with disabled people and their organisations as the detail of the assessment criteria and its operation is developed and tested.

## Pensioners: Disability

**Margot James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to support the mobility needs of people aged over 65 years with disabilities. [48357]

**Maria Miller:** People aged 65 and over can get disability living allowance (DLA), which includes a mobility component, provided a claim is made before they are 65 and they continue to satisfy the conditions of entitlement.

People who make a claim when they are aged 65 or older can get attendance allowance which is paid in respect of care needs, but does not contain a mobility component.

It is normal for pensions and benefits schemes to contain different provisions for people at different stages of their lives, and we intend to continue this after the introduction of personal independence payment. As for disability living allowance now, those who are in receipt of personal independence payment at the point they reach age 65 will be able to continue to receive the benefit subject to the entitlement conditions continuing to be satisfied. This difference in treatment acknowledges the disadvantages people have when they are severely disabled early or relatively early in life, and therefore have more limited opportunities to work, earn and save.

## Pensions

**Alex Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the contribution of Lord Freud in the Grand Committee of the House of Lords of 15 March 2011, *Official Report*, column GC57, what progress the Government has made on its comprehensive action plan for reinvigorating private pensions saving; what the elements of this action plan are; and if he will make a statement. [48532]

**Steve Webb:** The coalition agreement includes a commitment to:

> "...simplify the rules and regulations relating to pensions to help reinvigorate occupational pensions, encouraging companies to offer high-quality pensions to all employees and we will work with business and the industry to support auto-enrolment."

The key programme to reinvigorate private pension saving is the workplace pension reforms—automatic enrolment into a workplace pension, compulsory employer contributions and establishment of the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST). From October 2012 all employers will be required to automatically enrol their eligible workers into a qualifying pension scheme. We estimate that the reforms should lead to 5-8 million people newly saving or saving more for their retirement.

To help ensure that existing pension law remains appropriate following automatic enrolment, we have issued a call for evidence on the different regulatory regimes in place for trust-based occupational pension schemes and contract-based schemes. This will look at, among other things, the likely increase in the number of small pension pots post-automatic enrolment and possible solutions for helping schemes better manage the challenges they present—including looking at the rules around transfers. The call for evidence closes on 18 April and we will bring forward any proposals for change in due course. We are also engaging with the Pensions Regulator which has issued a discussion document (for response by 22 April) on defined contribution pensions[1].

A range of other measures has been put in place or is in train to support good pension provision. For example, simplified disclosure of information regulations enabling greater use of electronic communications came into force on 1 December 2010[2]. The rules on employer debt to pension schemes are being reviewed to make it easier for companies to restructure while protecting members' pensions. The aim is to introduce these changes in October 2011, following public consultation.

We are ending contracting out for defined contribution pension schemes[3]. This will simplify pension choices for individuals and administration for schemes.

The Government are exploring how pension saving might be made more attractive to individuals. For example, we are removing the requirement to annuitise at age 75 as part of the Finance Bill 2011, and we are continuing to consider options for improving take-up of the open market option for annuities.

We are also engaging in debates across the broader pensions community, and welcome initiatives such as the National Association of Pension Funds' Workplace Retirement Income Commission, which aims to develop consensus on how to improve and strengthen retirement savings[4].

[1] "Enabling good member outcomes in work-based pension provision".

http://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/docs/dc-discussion-paper-2011.pdf

[2] SI 2659/2010 The Occupational, Personal and Stakeholder Pension Scheme (Disclosure of Information) (Amendment) Regulations 2010

[3] Legislated for in the Pensions Acts 2007 (s15) and 2008 (s106)

[4] www.napf.co.uk/PressCentre/Press_releases/0095_West_Midlands_least_confident_about_paying_for_retirement.aspx

http://wricommission.org.uk/wric/

## Personal Independence Payment

**Margaret Curran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether claimants at the *(a)* standard and *(b)* enhanced rate of the proposed personal independence payment will be eligible for (i) blue badges and (ii) road tax exemption. [48034]

**Maria Miller:** We recognise the importance of passporting entitlement to disability living allowance to additional forms of help and support such as the Blue Badge scheme and exemption from vehicle excise duty. Therefore we are considering carefully how passporting arrangements will operate as we develop the assessment criteria for personal independence payment. We are working across Government and with the devolved Administrations to ensure that measures can be taken to maintain passports where appropriate. Where applicable we have also taken the legislative measures in the Welfare Reform Bill to enable continuing passporting arrangements.

**Margaret Curran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department proposes to move children from disability living allowance to the proposed personal independence payment; and if he will make a statement. [48040]

**Maria Miller:** Personal independence payment will replace disability living allowance for working-age (16 to 64) adults from 2013 and the new objective assessment is being designed to gather information about adult needs. We want to build on the experience of developing an assessment and applying it to new and existing claimants of working age to inform our decisions about the arrangements for children. Therefore we will not consider extending personal independence payment to new claims from children or to children already receiving DLA, until we have had an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of the new arrangements for working-age people.

**Margot James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether people in receipt of disability living allowance aged over 65 will be eligible for the personal independence payment; [48120]

(2) whether existing disability living allowance claimants aged over 65 years will be eligible for the personal independence payment. [48356]

**Maria Miller:** Personal independence payment will replace disability living allowance for working-age (16-64) adults from 2013. As for disability living allowance now, those who are in receipt of personal independence payment at the point they reach age 65 will be able to continue to receive the benefit subject to the entitlement conditions continuing to be satisfied.

We want to build on the experience of developing an assessment and applying it to new and existing claimants of working age to inform our decisions about the arrangements for current disability living allowance recipients who are over the age of 65. Therefore we will not consider extending personal independence payment to people over the age of 65 already receiving DLA, until we have had an opportunity to consider the effectiveness of the new arrangements for working age people.

## Social Fund

**Helen Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 750W, on the Social Fund, what the monetary value of loans and grants from the Social Fund was for cookers and washing machines in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [48701]

**Steve Webb:** The available information is given in the following tables.

*Crisis loan gross expenditure on cookers in Great Britain*

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 17 |
| 2009-10 | 24 |

*Crisis loan gross expenditure on washing machines and tumble driers in Great Britain*

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 4 |
| 2009-10 | 4 |

*Notes:*
1. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, it does not include applications which were processed clerically and had not been entered on to the Social Fund Computer System by the end of the relevant financial year.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest £1 million.

*Source:*
Department for Work and Pensions Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

## Social Security Benefits: Lone Parents

**Mr Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether single mothers being moved from income support to jobseeker's allowance will experience any interruption in payments due to the change in benefit status. [48694]

**Chris Grayling:** No they will not. Every effort is made to ensure that lone parents who move from income support to jobseeker's allowance, as their youngest child reaches the relevant age, continue to receive their payments without interruption. The change does require the customer to make a claim with HMRC to child tax credits for their children if they are claiming child dependency addition, as this is not available under jobseeker's allowance. However, this is completed on the customer's behalf to ensure that the lone parent's level of benefit is maintained, albeit from two separate sources, during the transition.

Since the introduction of this process in November 2008 we have smoothly transferred over 250,000 lone parents from income support on to jobseeker's allowance.

## State Retirement Pensions: Wolverhampton

**Mr McFadden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Wolverhampton South East constituency are in receipt of the state pension. [49013]

**Steve Webb:** As at August 2010, there were 15,870 recipients of the state pension in Wolverhampton South East parliamentary constituency.

*Notes*:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

3. State pension figure provided is the total state pension caseload. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.

4. From April 2010, the age at which women reach state pension age started to gradually increase from 60. This will introduce a small increase to the number of working age benefit recipients and a small reduction to the number of pension age recipients. Figures from May 2010 onwards reflect this change.

5. These data are available on the Department's tabulation tool at:

http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html

*Source*:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at August 2010.

## TREASURY

### Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission: Correspondence

**Mr Winnick:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 762W, on Members: correspondence, when the Child Benefit Office, Preston, plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 14 February 2011. [49026]

**Mr Gauke:** Child Benefit Office, Washington replied to a letter from the hon. Member dated 14 February 2011 on 28 February 2011.

### Departmental Theft

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what items with a value of over £100 have been taken without authorisation from his Department since his appointment; and what steps have been taken to recover such items. [48442]

**Justine Greening:** There are seven recorded instances of items with a value of over £100 (six laptops and one BlackBerry mobile device) being taken without authorisation since 12 May 2010. All involved theft by persons unknown. In each case the incident was reported to the police, although none of the items have so far been recovered.

### Financial Services: Regulation

**Stephen Lloyd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Financial Services Authority in relation to the regulation of independent financial advisers. [48601]

**Mr Hoban:** The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is an independent body, given statutory powers by the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA). Its day-to-day activities, including the regulation of independent financial advisers, are conducted independently of Government. The Government do not undertake assessments of the effectiveness of discrete FSA activities.

### Work-based Stress

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what arrangements are in place in his Departments to *(a)* reduce levels of work-based stress and *(b)* provide assistance to staff diagnosed with such stress. [48208]

**Justine Greening:** The Chancellor's departments are committed to the well-being of their employees. Information and training is provided to employees on the prevention, recognition and management of stress. Staff surveys are used to monitor perceptions of workload and flexible working policies are in place to support work-life balance. Confidential, advisory, welfare, occupational health and counselling services are provided to identify, assess and prevent stress related ill-health and to provide assistance to any staff who are affected.

### VAT: Channel Islands

**John Mann:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Government of *(a)* Jersey and *(b)* Guernsey on potential abuse of low value consignment relief. [48798]

**Mr Gauke:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 13 December 2010, *Official Report,* column 561W, to the hon. Member for Torbay (Mr Sanders).

### VAT: Fraud

**John Mann:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on instances of alleged abuse of low value consignment relief. [48790]

**Mr Gauke:** The Government have received several representations from trade associations and businesses about alleged abuse of the low value consignment relief (LVCR).

HMRC examines trading arrangements that are subject to the LVCR as part of its routine work across the whole field of VAT to ensure that VAT rules are being applied correctly. This includes whether or not an arrangement can be considered to fall within the VAT concept of 'abuse'.

When HMRC finds evidence to suggest abuse, it takes action to robustly address the situation. LVCR is no exception.

### VAT: Insulation

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criteria his Department used to determine which energy-saving materials would qualify for the lower rates of value added tax. [48791]

**Mr Gauke:** The prime criterion for determining which energy-saving materials would qualify for the reduced rate of VAT was that their primary purpose should be to provide energy-saving alternatives to existing products.

## ATTORNEY-GENERAL

### Work-based Stress

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Attorney-General what arrangements the Law Officers' Departments have in place *(a)* to reduce levels of and *(b)* to support staff diagnosed with work-related stress. [48296]

**The Attorney-General:** The information requested is detailed as follows.

The Treasury Solicitors Department (TSol) has a Health and Well Being strategy designed to help prevent people from becoming ill and to help reduce levels of stress. This includes providing Health Screening every two years, offering regular GP appointments, improving working conditions through engaging staff and offering flexible working opportunities.

If a member of staff is diagnosed with work-related stress TSol's HR Division will consider a referral to an Occupational Health adviser to obtain guidance on what adjustments they may need to put in place to help the individual cope. These could range from more flexible working arrangements to a change in role, and the particular circumstances of each case are taken into account. They may also advise the individual to contact Care First, an employee advice, information and counselling service.

The Attorney-General's Office and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate are both covered by the TSol Health and Well Being strategy.

The Crown Prosecution Service has developed a comprehensive strategy designed to reduce levels of work related stress, and supports staff diagnosed with work related stress through a range of internally and externally delivered interventions. This strategy includes:

Delivery of a programme of training to Human Resource Advisors (HRA) and line managers to raise understanding of work related stress factors and how to carry out personal risk assessments.

Provision of online guidance for staff and line managers on understanding pressures in the workplace and recognising the signs of stress.

Revision of the Department's Grievance Policy to better support informal and more timely resolution of workplace conflict, a known major contributor to work related stress.

Free employee access to Care First who provide a free and confidential counselling and support service, accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) has a sick absence management action plan. Where stress is identified line managers actively support individuals and encourage them to make use of the support mechanisms provided by the SFO. These include an employee assistance programme, HR support and access to an Occupational Health adviser. The employee assistance programme provides counselling and support on a wide range of issues including work related stress, and the Occupational Health provider offers advice to support individuals in making reasonable adjustments to the workplace in order to alleviate the causes of stress.

The National Fraud Authority (NFA) under its duty of care as an employer provides a good working environment with plenty of opportunity for employees to feedback on their work and workplace arrangements, including an annual staff survey. This enables the NFA to monitor and manage individual and office-wide conditions, adjusting arrangements as needed to reduce causes of work related stress. The NFA also subscribes to Care First, a professional people support services scheme to provide additional support for its employees.

### Third Sector

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Attorney-General how much the Law Officers Departments provided to each charity they fund in each of the last five years; and how much he has allocated for funding to each such charity in each of the next five years. [48297]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Law Officers Departments have not supported any charities through funding in the last five years and have no plans to do so in the future.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture: Subsidies

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the size of the budget for the common agricultural policy in the five years from 2013. [48800]

**Mr Paice:** We want the EU budget to be smaller, so that our domestic efforts to cut the deficit are not undermined by growth in EU spending. At 43% of the EU budget, CAP cannot be immune to the hard choices being made elsewhere. There must, therefore, be a very substantial cut to the CAP budget during the next financial framework which starts in 2014, as part of a wider strategy to deliver budgetary restraint by identifying savings across the EU budget.

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will assess the effects on the level of support available to smallholder farms of payments made to large-scale farms in the UK under the common agricultural policy. [48801]

**Mr Paice:** Levels of support for farmers under common agricultural policy schemes are generally determined by detailed EU rules which apply to all claimants under the schemes in question. In most cases, therefore, payments to one eligible claimant would not be expected to impact on payments to another eligible claimant. The exception would be where there is an element of competition for set funding, for example, the Higher Level Stewardship scheme. But then the key issue is not the size of the claimant's farm, but the extent to which a claimant meets the criteria set for the scheme in question.

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will assess the value for money of payments made to large-scale farms under the common agricultural policy. [48802]

**Mr Paice:** The Government believe that long-term provision of direct payments to farmers is not value for money compared with targeted payments as provided under RDPE. That is why we wish the current reforms to lead to a phasing out of Pillar 1 payments.

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on establishing a cap on the payments made to farms under the common agricultural policy. [48803]

**Mr Paice:** The UK is opposed to the European Commission's suggestion that direct payments to large farms should be capped. The common agricultural policy should encourage greater competitiveness, including consolidation, which capping would discourage.

### Agriculture: Training

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to ensure agricultural workers receive adequate training. [45506]

**Mr Paice:** Skills development is an important element contributing to both competitiveness and innovation in agriculture. Development of a highly skilled farming industry and the training delivery landscape which enables that is chiefly for the industry, working with Lantra (the land based industries' sector skills council) and training providers, such as land based colleges, to ensure training provision meets the needs of individual farmers.

DEFRA is working with the industry-led Agri-Skills Forum which is leading on improving skills development in agriculture. Activities include raising the profile of the importance and relevance of training and skills, particularly business skills, with individual farmers, developing continuing professional development schemes and improving the professionalism of the industry. In addition, we are working with both the industry and BIS to help increase the uptake of apprenticeships by farmers to encourage young people into farming careers.

### Common Agricultural Policy

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department plans to take during the Hungarian presidency of the Council of Ministers of the EU towards reform of the common agricultural policy. [48214]

**Mr Paice:** DEFRA Ministers have to date represented the UK at three Agriculture Council discussions on the Commission's proposals for future common agricultural policy (CAP) during the Hungarian presidency, as well as meeting Ministers from several member states, the Commission and representatives of the European Parliament to discuss CAP reform. We will continue to press for ambitious reform of the CAP that will provide value for money for farmers, taxpayers, industry, consumers and the environment.

### Public Forest Estate

**John Stevenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to publish information on those forests which are to be sold. [47759]

**Mr Paice** *[holding answer 23 March 2011]*: The consultation on the future of the Public Forest Estate has been ended and all forestry clauses in the Public Bodies Bill have been removed. All new sales have been suspended. An independent panel of experts will now examine forestry policy in England and report back to Ministers in the autumn.

### International Climate Financing: Finance

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much money her Department plans to allocate to International Climate Fund in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15. [47887]

**Mr Paice:** In total DEFRA is responsible for £100 million (for forestry) of the International Climate Fund. This breaks down as £10 million for 2011-12, £20 million for 2012-13, £30 million for 2013-14, and £40 million for 2014-15. There was no DEFRA contribution to UK climate financing in 2010-11.

### Nature Conservation

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what financial support her Department plans to provide to habitat restoration projects in each of the next four financial years. [47833]

**Richard Benyon:** Precise spending plans have not been finalised but during 2011-12 Natural England estimates it will spend about £4 million on restoring and maintaining habitats on National Nature Reserves and Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Significant sums are also provided for habitat restoration by the Rural Development Programme for England and Environment Agency grant in aid.

### Public Forest Estate

**Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 337W, when she plans to publish the main report of the study into the long-term sustainable role for the public forest estate. [44675]

**Mr Paice:** The study into the long-term sustainable role for the public forest estate by the Forestry Commission was initiated in 2008 under the previous Administration. The final draft report of the working group was presented to the Forestry Commission's England National Committee on 26 May 2010 before the outcome of the spending review 2010. The Forestry Commission did not bring forward any final recommendations following a reassessment of policy on the public forest estate. The committee's meeting papers are routinely published on the Forestry Commission's website and those from May 2010 are expected to be added shortly.

### Public Sector: Food

**Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate she has made of the quantity of *(a)* pork and *(b)* pork products purchased by Government bodies in the last 12 months for which figures are available; by whom such products are supplied; what the farms of origin are; and what average price per kilogram was paid in that period; [44732]

(2) what recent estimate she has made of the *(a)* cost of production for pig farmers supplying pork and pork products to the public sector and *(b)* price that they received in the latest period for which figures are available. [44734]

**Mr Paice** *[holding answer 7 March 2011]:* No estimate has been made of the cost of production for pig farmers supplying pork and pork products to the public sector or price that they received.

Information on the quantity of pork and pork products purchased by Government bodies, the suppliers, and the name of the supplying farm is not collated centrally. The price paid will in many cases be commercially confidential and therefore such information will also not be collected.

However, we are shortly to publish Government Buying Standards for food which will be mandatory for central Government and promoted to the wider public sector. Departments have been advised that they should be able to report, by June this year, baseline data for compliance with these standards.

One of the requirements of the Government Buying Standards will be that, in line with the industry principles on country of origin labelling, caterers should be able to indicate the origin of the meat, meat products and dairy products either on the menu or accompanying literature, or at least when the information is requested by the consumer.

**Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance she has issued to public bodies in England on purchasing pork and pork products produced in England; and how much of the pork procured by the public sector in the last 12 months was labelled with the *(a)* country of origin and *(b)* name of the supplying farm. [44733]

**Mr Paice** *[holding answer 7 March 2011]:* The Government have made a commitment to source food, subject to no overall increase in costs, meeting British or equivalent standards of production and I wrote to all Departments in January with guidance to this effect. Specific guidance on procuring pork and pork products has been published on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/policy/publicsectorfood/documents/pigmeat-quality010127-ga.pdf

Information on the amount of pork procured by the public sector labelled with the *(a)* country of origin and *(b)* the name of the supplying farm is not collated centrally. However, we are shortly to publish Government Buying Standards for food which will be mandatory for central Government and promoted to the wider public sector.

One of the requirements of the Government Buying Standards will be that, in line with the industry principles on country of origin labelling, caterers should be able to indicate the origin of the meat, meat products and dairy products either on the menu or accompanying literature, or at least when the information is requested by the consumer.

### Veterinary Medicine

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of the number of qualified graduates in veterinary science to meet demand for employees in that profession; and if she will make a statement. [47456]

**Mr Paice:** There has been no recent assessment made of whether there is an adequate number of veterinarians, as we are not aware of any particular concerns. However, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) undertakes regular surveys of the profession, the last of which was in 2010, and concluded that there was not a shortage of farm animal vets.

Later this year, the first cohort of veterinarians will graduate from Nottingham university. The veterinary labour market is quite fluid with veterinarians from across the EU and further afield registering to practise in the UK.

## EDUCATION

### Adoption

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what support his Department provides to parents who are considering *(a)* having and *(b)* adopting a baby. [48311]

**Tim Loughton:** Advice for people who are considering having a baby is available from local NHS services. In addition, the NHS Choices website offers a great deal of advice and information on pregnancy and on parenting in the early years. The relevant pages of the website can be found at:

http://www.nhs.uk/Planners/pregnancycareplanner/Pages/PregnancyHome.aspx

http://www.nhs.uk/planners/birthtofive/Pages/Birthtofivehome.aspx

People who are considering adopting a child can also approach their local authority or a voluntary adoption agency, such as the British Association for Adoption and Fostering, for advice.

### Childhood and Families Task Force

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what work has been completed by Ministers and officials in his Department as part of the Childhood and Families Task Force. [32855]

**Sarah Teather:** The Prime Minister set up the Childhood and Families Task Force to ensure policies across different departments come together to tackle some of the major obstacles to a happy childhood and a successful family life.

As a result the Chancellor announced in the spending review that we will extend 15 hours a week of free early education and care to all disadvantaged two-year-old children from 2012-13, building on the existing universal provision for three and four-year-olds. We have ensured there is enough funding within the Early Intervention Grant to retain a national network of Sure Start Children's Centres and enable local authorities to meet their statutory duties. The network of children's centres provides the foundation for stronger, early joined-up working, offering universal services for all families and targeted services focused on families in greatest need. The spending review also announced a national campaign to support families with multiple problems. In July, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and I launched a review on early intervention (led by the hon. Member for Nottingham North (Mr Allen)) and more recently the Prime Minister announced a review of the commercialisation and premature sexualisation of childhood (led by Reg Bailey). The Prime Minister also used this occasion to commit to long-term funding to put relationship support services on a secure footing.

### Children in Care: Disability

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of children in care were recorded as having physical disabilities in each of the last 10 years. [48483]

**Tim Loughton:** The proportion of looked after children who were recorded as being in need of services due to their disability in each of the last 10 years, is shown in the following table. Information on the nature of a looked after child's disability, whether physical or otherwise, is not collected by the Department.

*Children looked after at 31 March owing to disability[1,2,3,4]. Years ending 31 March 2001 to 2010. Coverage: England*

*Numbers and percentages*

| | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All children looked after at 31 March | 58,800 | 59,600 | 60,800 | 61,300 | 61,000 | 60,300 | 60,000 | 59,400 | 60,900 | 64,400 |
| Number of children looked after owing to disability | 2,400 | 2,500 | 2,500 | 2,400 | 2,400 | 2,400 | 2,300 | 2,300 | 2,200 | 2,200 |
| Percentage of Children looked after owing to disability | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 |

[1] Numbers above 1000 have been rounded to the nearest 100. Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

[2] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements.

[3] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

[4] "Disability" covers any form of disability as the data collected do not specify the type.

*Source:*
SSDA 903

Only the main reason (or primary need) is recorded against each looked after child. Consequently some looked after children may have come into care for another reason, but also have a disability.

### Children: Foster Care

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the ability of *(a)* Christians and *(b)* those with religious beliefs to adopt or foster children. [47383]

**Tim Loughton:** The Government are committed to encouraging people from all walks of life and all religions to come forward to foster or adopt looked after children. The revised National Minimum Standards coming into force on 1 April 2011make clear that anyone interested in becoming a foster carer or adoptive parent should be treated fairly, without prejudice, openly and with respect. The statutory frameworks for foster care and adoption certainly do not prevent a person holding Christian or other particular religious beliefs from becoming a foster carer or adoptive parent.

As a society we owe carers, and adoptive parents, a great debt of gratitude. That is why, on 18 March, I celebrated with key partners in the fostering sector the launch of a Foster Carers' Charter, which aims to unite foster carers, fostering services and local authorities behind a shared understanding of foster care.

### Curriculum

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to include emergency life skills in the national curriculum; and if he will make a statement. [48010]

**Mr Gibb:** We have no plans to introduce emergency life skills in the national curriculum. The non-statutory programmes of study for Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education currently provide a context for schools to teach children and young people how to recognise and follow health and safety procedures, including ways of reducing risk and minimising harm in risky situations, how to find sources of emergency help and how to use emergency and basic first aid. Schools often ask organisations such as the Red Cross and St John Ambulance to provide pupils with information about first aid and dealing with emergency and risky situations.

We have announced an internal review into PSHE and further details will be available in due course.

### Departmental Consultants

**John Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has spent on consultants since May 2010. [40866]

**Tim Loughton:** The departmental spend on consultants between May 2010 and February 2011 (latest available figures) is £19,654,848. The equivalent figure between May 2009 and February 2010 was £43,087,119.

### Departmental Public Appointments

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education which public bodies sponsored by his Department *(a)* have been and *(b)* are to be closed, merged or reorganised following his appointment; and how many (i) women and (ii) men who are public appointees at each body will no longer hold such an appointment in consequence. [47107]

**Tim Loughton:** The coalition Government are committed to increasing the accountability of public bodies, and this involves reducing their number and their cost to the taxpayer. The proposals for the majority of bodies across all Departments were announced and published on 14 October 2010. An updated list reflecting changes since October 2010 has been published on the Cabinet Office website this month and can be found on:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/public-bodies-reform-proposals-change

Summary information on public appointments is published annually by the Cabinet Office. This includes data on gender. Copies of the most recent report can be downloaded from:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/ndpb

### Public Bodies Reform Programme

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10WS, on the public bodies reform programme, what estimate he has made of the savings to his Department net of costs incurred in the assumption of additional departmental responsibilities to accrue from the abolition of 11 public bodies within his Department's area of responsibility. [48141]

**Tim Loughton** *[holding answer 21 March 2011]*: On 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10WS, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General issued a written ministerial statement updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that Departments estimate cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

I anticipate net overall administrative savings from structural reforms over the spending review period of approximately £592 million. Overall administrative reductions from reform of all departmental public bodies are estimated to be up to £674 million over the spending review period.

### Football: South Africa

**Graham Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on entertainment activities related to the 2010 FIFA World Cup. [27364]

**Tim Loughton:** The Department did not spend anything on entertainment relating to the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

### Free Schools

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 264W, on free schools, what the name is of each of the 60 unsuccessful applicants to establish a free school. [44618]

**Mr Gibb:** In the interests of personal privacy, we will not be issuing details of unsuccessful proposers.

### GCSE: Disability

**David Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effect of the rules on controlled assessment of GCSE courses on disabled children undertaking distance learning who experience difficulties in attending examination centres; and what estimate he has made of the number of such children there were in the latest period for which figures are available. [47568]

**Mr Gibb:** Controlled assessment was introduced into GCSEs in most subjects in 2009. We are aware that it is causing significant issues for schools, colleges and students and we are working with the independent regulator, Ofqual, and with awarding organisations on what can be done to address these issues.

The Department does not collect information on the number of children with special educational needs undertaking controlled assessment as part of a GCSE examination.

### GCSE: Standards

**Mr Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of students obtained a C grade or higher in *(a)* history, *(b)* physics, *(c)* French, *(d)* German, *(e)* Spanish and *(f)* chemistry GCSE in (i) 1990, (ii) 1997, (iii) 2007 and (iv) 2010. [42975]

**Mr Gibb:** The information requested is provided in the following tables:

*Percentage of all pupils attempting each subject who obtained a grade C or higher in history, physics, French, German, Spanish and chemistry GCSE for the years 1990, 1997, 2007 and 2010*

| | *1990* | *1997* | *2007* | *2010* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| History | 49 | 57 | 67 | 70 |
| Physics | 53 | 89 | 92 | 94 |
| French | 47 | 49 | 66 | 72 |
| German | 57 | 54 | 71 | 75 |
| Spanish | 51 | 52 | 69 | 74 |
| Chemistry | 53 | 89 | 92 | 94 |

*Percentage of pupils[1] in all schools who obtained a grade C or higher in history, physics, French, German, Spanish and chemistry GCSE in 1990, 1997, 2007 and 2010*

| | *1990* | *1997* | *2007* | *2010* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| History | n/a | 19 | 21 | 22 |
| Physics | n/a | 5 | 7 | 16 |
| French | n/a | 25 | 19 | 18 |
| German | n/a | 11 | 8 | 8 |
| Spanish | n/a | 3 | 6 | 7 |
| Chemistry | n/a | 5 | 7 | 17 |

n/a = not available

[1] For 1997, pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year. For 2007 and 2010, pupils at the end of key stage 4.

### School Sport Partnership: Leeds, West

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of children in schools in the Leeds School Sport Partnership West area accessed three hours per week of physical education and school sport in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [48490]

**Tim Loughton:** The Priesthorpe school sport partnership covers schools in the Leeds West constituency. The annual PE and sport survey showed that 35% of children in years 1-11 in the Priesthorpe school sport partnership took part in at least three hours PE and sport per week in 2008/09, with 53% doing so in 2009/10.

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of young people in schools in the Leeds school sport partnership west area participated in sports leadership courses in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2010. [48491]

**Tim Loughton:** The Priesthorpe school sport partnership covers schools in the Leeds West constituency. The annual PE and sport survey showed that 5% of children in years 1-11 in the Priesthorpe school sport partnership took part in sports leadership activities in 2003/04, with 19% of them doing so in 2009/10.

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of pupils in years 1 to 11 in schools in the Leeds school sport partnership west area participated in at least one inter-schools sports competition in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2010. [48494]

**Tim Loughton:** The Priesthorpe school sport partnership covers schools in the Leeds West constituency. The annual PE and sport survey showed that 39% of children in years 1-11 in the Priesthorpe school sport partnership took part in at least one inter-school sport competition in 2003/04, with 72% of them doing so in 2009/10.

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many staff hours were funded by the Leeds school sport partnership west in academic year 2010-11; and how many such hours he expects to be funded in academic year 2011-12. [48495]

**Tim Loughton:** This information is not held centrally in the format requested. However, the Department currently funds the following posts in the Priesthorpe school sport partnership: one full-time partnership development manager; seven school sport co-ordinators for two days a week each; 34 primary link teachers for 12 days a year each; and one further education sport co-ordinator for two days a week.

All secondary schools in the Leeds West constituency will receive funding from the Department for Education from September 2011 to enable a PE teacher to be released from timetable for one day a week to increase opportunities for competitive sport. In addition, if Priesthorpe applies for a school games organiser post, then they will receive funding from DCMS and Department of Health to enable that post holder to work for three days a week to carry out the role of school games organiser. Schools can use their own funds to top up this post to a full-time role, if they wish.

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of children in schools in the Leeds school sport partnership west area accessed two hours per week of physical education in curriculum time in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2010. [48496]

**Tim Loughton:** The Priesthorpe school sport partnership covers schools in the Leeds West constituency. The annual PE and sport survey showed that 90% of children in years 1-11 in the Priesthorpe school sport partnership took part in at least two hours physical education in curriculum time in 2005/06, with 83% of them doing so in 2009/10.

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what percentage of children in schools in the Leeds school sport partnership west area accessed two hours per week of physical education and school sport in *(a)* 2003-04 and *(b)* 2007-08. [48497]

**Tim Loughton:** The Priesthorpe school sport partnership covers schools in the Leeds West constituency. The annual PE and sport survey showed that 42% of children in years 1-11 in the Priesthorpe school sport partnership took part in at least two hours physical education and sport in 2003/04, with 90% of them doing so in 2007/08.

### Parent Teacher Associations

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of schools have a parent teacher association in each local education authority. [35080]

**Mr Gibb:** The Department does not collect data on the numbers of parent teacher associations (PTAs) in each local authority but the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations (NCPTA) estimates that around 19,000 schools (75%) in England have some form of PTA, of which 12,482 (66%) are members of the NCPTA.

### Parenting Classes

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what steps he is taking to deliver parenting classes within the school curriculum; [48463]

(2) whether he has made an estimate of the number of schools which offer parenting classes to their pupils. [48310]

**Mr Gibb:** The non-statutory programmes of study for personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education in England currently provide a context within which schools teach pupils about the importance of parenting. In particular, the personal well-being programme of study sets out how young people should learn about the roles and responsibilities of parents, carers, children and other family members, as well as the skills and qualities needed in parenting, and their importance to family life.

Our aim for the national curriculum is to reduce unnecessary prescription, bureaucracy and central control and to give schools and teachers greater control over what is taught. We do not therefore propose to ask schools to report on the content of their lessons, especially those that are non-statutory.

The recent report from the Centre for Education and Inclusion Research showed that between 63% and 70% of secondary schools (dependent on year group) were teaching all PSHE education elements at KS3 and KS4. Ofsted's report on the teaching of PSHE found that overall provision was good or outstanding in three quarters of the schools visited, but sex and relationship education, drugs and alcohol teaching and mental health issues were dealt with superficially.

We have said we want all pupils to benefit from high quality PSHE education and in the Schools White Paper 2010, "The Importance of Teaching", we announced our intention to hold an internal review of PSHE. As part of that review we expect to visit Manchester Academy to understand the work it has undertaken on incorporating parenting classes into the curriculum.

Notwithstanding the work in Manchester Academy, evidence shows that the most valuable parenting skills are best taught through a mix of practical application and teaching, which is likely to be more effective the closer it is to the age at which people have children—the average age for people to have their first child in England is in their late 20s.

### Qualifications and Curriculum Authority

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what responsibilities have been transferred from the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency; and which bodies have assumed each of those responsibilities; [47998]

(2) what responsibilities the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency will retain in financial year 2011-12; [47999]

(3) how many staff were employed by the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and how many he expects to be employed at that body at the end of financial year 2011-12; [48000]

(4) what discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* private sector companies and *(b)* voluntary organisations on the future of the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency since his appointment. [48095]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 23 March 2011]:* A decision was taken to transfer some of the functions currently being carried out by the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA) in preparation for its planned closure by March 2012.

The following responsibilities or functions have already transferred from QCDA:

| *Number* | *Function* | *Destination* |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Research Evidence Management Systems (REMS) | Ofqual |
| 2 | Evaluation of new A levels and GCSEs | The Department for Education |
| 3 | Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) | Ofqual |

There are a number of research functions that are due to transfer by the end of 2010-11.

| *Number* | *Function* | *Destination* |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Maths GCSE Linked Pair Pilot | The Department for Education |
| 2 | Maths GCSE Linked Pair Pilot Evaluation | The Department for Education |
| 3 | International Review of Curriculum and Assessment Frameworks Internet Archive (INCA) | The Department for Education |

Alongside the decisions on transferring functions, the Department is working closely with the management team in QCDA to ensure that staff are consulted and provided with all the support and information they need before functions are transferred. In taking these decisions, consideration is given to staff rights under the Cabinet Office's COSOP arrangements (Cabinet Office Statement of Practice) and the Transfer of Undertaking (Protection of Employment) Regulations (TUPE).

In 2009-10, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) employed 683 members of staff. 535 of these members of staff remained in QCDA when QCA split into QCDA and Ofqual. In 2010-11, QCDA employed 416 members of staff. It is expected that there will be no staff employed by QCDA by the end of financial year 2011-12 as it is due to close in March 2012.

Ministers and the Department have discussed the implications of QCDA's closure with a wide range of bodies, including awarding bodies and their representatives, as well as other interested governmental bodies such as Ofqual. Decisions about which functions are to continue and which are to be transferred are set out clearly in the Secretary of State's letters to QCDA's chair.

### Redundancy

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his most recent estimate is of the reduction by April 2012 in jobs which will result from his proposed changes to non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible; and what proportion and number of those reductions are to staff based in Coventry. [48001]

**Tim Loughton:** The Department is still working through the details of the proposed changes to the non-departmental bodies for which it is responsible and therefore cannot say, at this stage, what the effect of the reductions will be on staffing levels in Coventry.

I have asked officials in the Department to write to you about the impact of reforming non-departmental bodies on staff based in Coventry once relevant decisions have been made.

### Religion: GCSE

**Damian Hinds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of *(a)* Year 11 students and *(b)* students in other years took GCSE examinations in religious education, religious studies or similar subjects in each of the last five years. [45581]

**Mr Gibb:** The information requested is in the following table and covers pupils in all schools[1].

[1] Includes independent schools as well as hospital schools and Pupil Referral Units.

| Year[1] | No. of pupils in year 11 who have taken GCSE Religious Education[2] | % of pupils in year 11 who have taken GCSE Religious Education[2] | No. of pupils in other years who have taken GCSE Religious Education[2] | % of pupils in other years who have taken GCSE Religious Education[2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2006 | 143,488 | 22.1 | 1,399 | 0.2 |
| 2007 | 153,800 | 23.5 | 1,449 | 0.2 |
| 2008 | 162,549 | 24.9 | 1,616 | 0.2 |
| 2009 | 165,678 | 26.1 | 1,591 | 0.3 |
| 2010 | 174,865 | 27.3 | 1,457 | 0.2 |

[1] Figures for 2010 are revised and all other figures are final.
[2] Includes Religious Education and Religious Studies.
*Source:*
School and College Performance Tables

## Schools: Admissions

**Mr Leigh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on arrangements for admissions to the Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School; and if he will make a statement. [47516]

**Mr Gibb:** We have received a number of letters in relation to governance issues at Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School. In a small number of these, admission issues are mentioned.

It is for the independent Schools Adjudicator to consider any objections to schools' admission arrangements. For Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School, the Schools Adjudicator reached a determination on 18 December 2009 which can be found at:

http://www.schoolsadjudicator.gov.uk/upload/ADA1720%20Cardinal%20Vaughan%20Revised%2025May2010.doc

Following the Schools Adjudicator's decision, the school, which is its own admission authority, has now revised its admission arrangements in accordance with the Adjudicator's determination.

## Schools: Assessments

**Damian Hinds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the weighted average Key Stage 2 results were of pupils starting Year 7 in *(a)* Church of England, *(b)* Catholic, *(c)* other denominational or faith and *(d)* other maintained schools (i) in each local authority area and (ii) nationally in each of the last five years. [43674]

**Mr Gibb:** The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Schools: Finance

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to announce a national funding formula for schools for 2012. [47965]

**Mr Gibb:** In our White Paper 'The Importance of Teaching' we said our long-term aim was to move to a national funding formula. We will publish a consultation this spring on the merits of moving to such a formula, the right time to begin the transition to a formula, the transitional arrangements necessary to ensure that schools and local authorities do not suffer undue turbulence, and the factors to take into account in order to assess the needs of pupils for funding purposes.

## Schools: Sports

**Simon Danczuk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department allocated for schools sport in Rochdale in each of the last two financial years; and how much he plans to allocate for such purposes in each of the next two financial years. [33301]

**Tim Loughton:** The grant allocated for school sports in the Rochdale local authority area for 2009/10 and 2010/11 is set out in the table,

| | School Sport Partnership grant (£)[1] | FE Sport Co-ordinators (£) | Coaching (£) | Swimming (£) | Competition Manager (£) | Total (£) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2009/10 | 440,987 | 13,050 | 43,000 | 11,277 | 34,500 | 542,814 |
| 2010/11[2] | 392,624 | 18,488 | 43,000 | 11,277 | 34,500 | 499,889 |

[1] Includes Partnership Development Managers, School Sport Co-ordinators and Primary Link Teachers
[2] Anticipated.

The Department's email of 21 December 2010 to school sport partnerships announced that £65 million will be available to secondary schools to release a PE teacher for one day a week for school years 2011/12 and 2012/13. We are currently considering how best to make the payments to schools and will inform schools about the arrangements separately, as soon as possible.

## Science: GCSE

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 345W, on GCSE: science, (1) what form support to schools to offer triple science will take; [42408]

(2) what steps he is taking to increase the number and quality of science teachers. [42409]

**Mr Gibb:** Future support to schools to offer GCSE triple science is dependent on the more detailed outcome of the spending review which has yet to be announced.

We are investigating a number of proposals that will improve the training of teachers so that standards of teaching are raised in schools. It is the Government's ambition to improve the prestige of the profession so that it attracts the highest quality entrants and to base more initial teacher training in schools so that trainees spend as much time in the classroom, learning from the best teachers. For example, we have already announced plans to expand the successful scheme Teach First so that more schools (including for the first time primary schools) may benefit from the talents of the country's best graduates. Three quarters of Teach First participants teach the most demanding shortage subjects, including science. Expanding the scheme should therefore help boost the supply of science teachers.

The Schools White Paper 2010, "The Importance of Teaching", also sets out the Government's commitment to attract more of the best graduates of shortage subjects, including science, into teaching. We are reviewing the routes into teaching and the incentives offered to well qualified people who want to teach priority subjects; and will shortly publish a strategy document for discussion, setting out our plans for funding initial teacher training from academic year 2012/13.

## Teachers: Training

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* initial teacher training places and *(b)* Teach First places there were at each higher education institution in the academic year (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11; how many he expects there to be in the academic year 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [48456]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 22 March 2011]*: In 2009/10, 31,050 mainstream places were allocated by the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) to higher education institutions and this decreased slightly to 30,990 places in 2010/11. The provisional number of places allocated for 2011/12 is 27,680, but this could change as recruitment patterns emerge.

The number of places allocated to each higher education institution by the TDA in 2009/10 and 2010/11 is shown in the table.

The number of Teach First places in higher education institutions (HEI) was 485 in 2009/10 and 560 in 2010/11. The number of Teach First HEI places for 2011/12 has yet to be confirmed.

*Higher education institutions: allocated number of initial teacher training places, years: 2009/10 and 2010/11, coverage: England*

| | *2009/10* | *2010/11* |
|---|---|---|
| Total higher education institutions | 31,046 | 30,988 |
| Anglia Ruskin University | 297 | 315 |
| University of Bath | 178 | 166 |
| Bath Spa University | 495 | 479 |
| University of Birmingham | 330 | 344 |
| Birmingham City University | 535 | 558 |
| Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln | 377 | 401 |
| Bradford College | 321 | 320 |
| University of Brighton, School of Education | 681 | 728 |
| University of Bristol | 247 | 242 |
| Brunei University | 342 | 325 |
| University of Cambridge | 439 | 439 |
| Canterbury Christ Church University | 1,397 | 1,273 |
| Central School of Speech and Drama | 36 | 32 |
| University of Chester | 290 | 276 |
| University of Chichester | 427 | 428 |
| University of Derby | 183 | 198 |
| University of Durham | 383 | 369 |
| University of East Anglia | 352 | 351 |
| University of East London | 448 | 476 |
| Edge Hill University | 1,332 | 1,375 |
| University of Exeter | 597 | 592 |
| University of Gloucestershire | 493 | 463 |
| Goldsmiths University | 498 | 504 |
| University of Greenwich | 488 | 490 |
| University of Hertfordshire | 401 | 412 |
| University of Huddersfield | 175 | 169 |
| University of Hull | 384 | 392 |
| Keele University | 212 | 231 |
| King's College London | 214 | 215 |
| Kingston University | 303 | 309 |
| University of Leeds | 359 | 360 |
| Leeds Metropolitan University | 253 | 253 |
| University of Leicester | 312 | 309 |
| Liverpool Hope University | 816 | 812 |
| Liverpool John Moores University | 514 | 543 |
| London Metropolitan University | 295 | 308 |
| London South Bank University | 240 | 257 |
| Loughborough University | 130 | 129 |
| University of Manchester | 378 | 388 |
| Manchester Metropolitan University | 1,179 | 1,174 |
| Middlesex University | 486 | 490 |
| University of Newcastle | 250 | 232 |
| Newman University College | 498 | 453 |
| University of Northampton | 226 | 232 |
| Northumbria University | 294 | 288 |
| University of Nottingham | 265 | 261 |
| Nottingham Trent University | 433 | 393 |
| The Open University | 254 | 253 |
| University of Oxford | 190 | 189 |
| Oxford Brookes University | 476 | 507 |
| University of Plymouth | 327 | 353 |
| University of Portsmouth | 140 | 140 |
| University of Reading | 315 | 323 |
| Roehampton University | 706 | 689 |
| University of Sheffield | 153 | 148 |
| Sheffield Hallam University | 738 | 778 |
| University of Southampton | 451 | 429 |
| St Mary's University College | 572 | 557 |
| Staffordshire University | 52 | 51 |
| University of Sunderland | 411 | 442 |
| University of Sussex | 170 | 169 |
| Leeds Trinity and All Saints | 319 | 287 |
| University College Birmingham | 30 | 34 |
| University College Plymouth St Mark and St John | 415 | 394 |
| University of Bedfordshire | 482 | 511 |
| University of Cumbria | 1,392 | 1,413 |
| Institute of Education, University of London | 1,041 | 960 |
| University of Warwick | 456 | 464 |
| University of The West of England | 469 | 455 |
| University of Winchester | 309 | 324 |
| University of Wolverhampton | 397 | 352 |
| University of Worcester | 463 | 487 |
| York St John University College | 395 | 385 |
| University of York | 140 | 140 |

*Source:*
TDA's ITT Trainee Numbers Census

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will amend the membership of the Qualified Teacher Status review panel to include initial teacher training providers. [48523]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 23 March 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Education has already appointed a group of practitioners and experts led by Sally Coates, Principal of Burlington Danes Academy, to review the whole framework of teachers' standards, which includes the Qualified Teacher Status standards. There is a range of experience of initial teacher training provision on the group, both from the perspective of schools and from Teach First. The group is currently considering how it will engage other experts, the profession and its representatives and those who use the standards, including ITT providers.

### Departmental Theft

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what items with a value of over £100 have been taken without authorisation from his Department since his appointment; and what steps have been taken to recover such items. [48445]

**Tim Loughton:** Since May 2010 four laptop computers and five BlackBerrys have been stolen. In each case the Department's incident reporting process was followed and the theft was reported to the police.

### Welsh Language

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when his Department last published a Welsh language scheme in accordance with the provisions of the Welsh Language Act 1993; and at which web addresses such schemes can be accessed in *(a)* Welsh and *(b)* English. [31160]

**Tim Loughton:** We are working with our colleagues in the Welsh, Scottish and Northern Irish Administrations to update the concordats which outline how we will work together in order to reflect recent changes to the policy areas which are devolved and to the name of the Department for Education. We plan to update the welsh language scheme once these concordats have been signed off. Until then, the welsh language scheme published by the Department for Education and Skills in 2000 will apply. This can be found at the following address:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/cymraeg/

Further schemes will be published on the Department for Education's website at:

www.education.gov.uk

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer questions *(a)* 32855, 32870, 32871, 32872, 32873, 32874, 32877, 32878, 32879, 32880 and 32881, tabled on 21 December 2010 for answer on 10 January 2011, and *(b)* 33292 and 33370, tabled on 10 January 2011 for answer on 12 January 2011. [43662]

**Sarah Teather:** A response to the hon. Member's question 32855 has been issued today. Responses to the remaining hon. Member's questions were answered as follows:

PQs 32870, 32871, 32872, 32873 and 32874 issued on 1 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 344-45W.

PQ 32877 issued on 4 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 648-49W.

PQs 32878 and 33370 issued on 4 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 652W.

PQs 32879 and 32881 issued on 4 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 653-54W.

PQ 32880 issued on 4 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 648-49W.

PQ 33292 issued on 15 March 2011, *Official report*, column 175W.

### Youth Clubs: Finance

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many youth clubs received funding from his Department and its predecessors in each of the last five years. [48504]

**Tim Loughton:** The Department does not collect information on the numbers of youth clubs or on whether they are supported by funding from the Department.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Cabinet: Bradford and Derby

**Bob Stewart:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 1292W, on meetings: public expenditure, what the cost to the public purse under each category of expenditure was of holding Cabinet meetings in *(a)* Bradford and *(b)* Derby. [47795]

**Mr Maude:** Ministers travelled to the Cabinet meeting in Bradford by train. A coach was hired at a cost £750 to transport Ministers from Leeds train station to the venue and back to the station. Ministers combined their attendance with visits to services and projects in the area. Departments will have incurred additional costs associated with travel to Leeds train station but this information is not held centrally by the Cabinet Office. The total cost of hiring the venue for the Cabinet meeting in Bradford was £2,279 including catering and other related costs. Therefore, the central cost of the Cabinet meeting in Bradford was £3,029.50.

Full costs for the Cabinet meeting in Derby on 7 March 2011 are not yet known but are expected to be similar or lower to those of the Bradford event.

### Census

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what mechanism has been put in place to ensure the security of data during the 2011 Census process; [46951]

(2) whether his Department takes into account ethical considerations when tendering contracts for *(a)* the Census and *(b)* other UK social statistical tasks. [47079]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) I have been asked to reply to your recent questions to the Minister for the Cabinet Office asking (1) what mechanism has been put in place to ensure the confidentiality of data during the 2011 Census process (46951) and (2) whether his Department takes into account ethical consideration when tendering contracts for (a) the Census and (b) other UK social statistical tasks (47079).

(1) Security has been a fundamental aspect and is built into the whole of the census design. The broad principles and strategic approach covering the privacy, security and confidentiality aspects of census information were set out in Chapter 6 of the White Paper "Helping to shape tomorrow" (CM 7513), laid before Parliament in December 2008.

Following the appointment of Lockheed Martin UK as the supplier of the main data processing services ONS put in place additional contractual and operational arrangements to ensure that:

all data processing will be carried out in the UK;

ONS retains ownership of the data;

the only people who have access to the full census dataset in the operational data centre will be ONS staff;

no staff from either Lockheed Martin (the US parent) or Lockheed Martin UK have access to any personal census data;

ONS controls system access rights to all data systems; and

everyone working with census data signs declarations of confidentiality.

A joint ONS/supplier security team has been overseeing the security of the census data capture operations, including the online census.

The online census was built with data security as a primary requirement and meets government-information assurance and data security standards, as well as ISO 27001, the industry standard for information security management. The online system has been subject to rigorous security tests, and underwent a formal accreditation process before it went live. The system has been subject to security testing by Logica and, in addition, ONS commissioned its own independent security testing, which has been carried out by SOPRA, a CESG approved CHECK service provider. Any vulnerabilities identified have been rectified in line with the recommendations.

An independent review of security has also been carried out and the report was published on 11 February. The report "2011 Census: Independent Information Assurance Review" can be found on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/2011-census-project/commitment-to-confidentiality/index.html

(2) a) and b) In tendering for all contracts, including for the main outsourced operations for the 2011 Census, ONS carries out fully compliant procurements in accordance with the requirements of European law and the European Union Procurement Directives, which have been incorporated into English law. The foundations of the rules are fairness and transparency. Any organisation with the correct technical capability, financial stability and relevant experience therefore has the opportunity to compete openly for Government business throughout the European Union without discrimination. The tendering process for support services for the 2011 Census covered the technical ability to provide the services, the cost and the assessment of risks associated with such services. There were six main overarching evaluation criteria that were applied to determine the chosen suppliers. These were:

compliance with requirements listed in the statement of requirements as mandatory

value for money

understanding of the business needs

technical capability of the proposed solution

legal/contractual assessment

risks

## Departmental Assets

**Graeme Morrice:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which fixed assets his Department has sold since June 2010; and what the *(a)* sale value and *(b)* name of the purchaser of each such asset was. [47263]

**Mr Maude:** Since June 2010 only low value items have been sold. Proceeds totalled £1,733. Details of individual purchasers could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Theft

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what items with a value of over £100 have been taken without authorisation from his Department since his appointment; and what steps have been taken to recover such items. [48449]

**Mr Maude:** The Cabinet Office has recorded three official items of electronic equipment to the value of £325.

All reported lost or stolen items are investigated with a view to recovering the items, and each case is reviewed to determine any increased vulnerability to our security.

## Efficiency and Reform Group

**Tessa Jowell:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the cost to the public purse of the Efficiency and Reform Group has been in the financial year 2010-11 to date. [46327]

**Mr Maude:** The Efficiency and Reform Group has been brought together in the Cabinet Office to make the Government more efficient and to radically reform the way public services are provided. The group has brought together expertise from across the Government from different parts of the Cabinet Office, HM Treasury, DirectGov and the Office of Government Commerce. Information about the costs of the Efficiency and Reform Group will only be available for release after the Department's resource accounts for 2010-11 have been audited and laid before Parliament.

## Work-based Stress

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what arrangements his Department has in place to *(a)* reduce levels of and *(b)* support staff diagnosed with work-related stress; [48293]

(2) what arrangements are in place in his Department to *(a)* reduce levels of work-based stress and *(b)* provide assistance to staff diagnosed with such stress. [48199]

**Mr Maude:** The Cabinet Office is committed to the health and well-being of its staff and has policies, procedures and support in place to identify, manage and reduce workplace stress. Additionally the Cabinet Office has an independent counselling and support service in place that is available to all staff.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Boarding Schools

**Mr Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department provides financial assistance to his officials for boarding school fees for their children. [48518]

**Mr Duncan:** The Department for International Development (DFID) reimburses employees on overseas postings for private schooling overseas or boarding school fees in the UK for their children, within financial ceilings.

The terms and conditions of employment in DFID are set in order to recruit, motivate and retain staff who are skilled and equipped to meet DFID's objectives. Those with children have a legal obligation as parents to ensure that their children receive a full-time education from the age of five, and they pay UK tax wherever they work. Most parents prefer to take their children with them, but in some countries they are not permitted to do so, for either health or security reasons. Continuity of education is also an important factor, particularly at secondary level.

### Departmental Theft

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what items with a value of over £100 have been taken without authorisation from his Department since his appointment; and what steps have been taken to recover such items. [48438]

**Mr O'Brien:** The following items have been reported as taken without authorisation from the Department, since May 2010:

| *Item* | *Number stolen* | *Total value (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Laptop | 12 | 3,240 |
| Vehicle | 1 | 1,490 |

All items taken without authorisation require notification to Internal Audit, which carries out an investigation into the circumstances of the loss. All necessary steps are taken to recover the item and prosecutions are taken forward if possible.

### Developing Countries: Remittances

**Ms Harman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if his Department will establish a mechanism to record information on *(a)* recipients of remittance payments from the UK, *(b)* the purposes to which remittance payments are put and *(c)* the number of people in the UK who send remittance payments abroad. [48695]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Department for International Development (DFID) relies on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) for data on UK transfers. Since the UK ended its foreign exchange control system in 1979, there has been no formal mechanism for recording international transactions, including volume, destination and use of remittances from the UK. The ONS has investigated options for collecting remittance data, including incorporating specific questions on remittances into household surveys and a planned Home Office (UK Border Agency) migrant survey. However, the ONS and the Home Office currently do not have sufficient resources to undertake this work.

DFID supports the World Bank, which is leading efforts to improve information on global remittance flows and their development impact. The World Bank's Migration and Remittances Factbook provides data on emigration, immigration and remittance flows for 210 countries collated from a range of national and international sources:

http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/migration-and-remittances

DFID has no present plans to establish a bilateral mechanism of the type described in the question.

### Work-based Stress

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what arrangements are in place in his Department to *(a)* reduce levels of work-based stress and *(b)* provide assistance to staff diagnosed with such stress. [48203]

**Mr O'Brien:** The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to the well-being of its employees and manages employee stress using an approach based on Health and Safety Executive standards.

Guidance on managing stress is available to all staff on the Department's intranet. DFID offers a toolkit for managing pressure at work, stress and work/life balance. The toolkit includes specific support for our staff working overseas, many of whom are based in difficult environments. The Department also has access to occupational health services to support staff diagnosed with stress-related illness.

## HEALTH

### Blood Transfusions

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many units of prion-filtered red cells have been transfused in the UK as part of the prion-filtered red cells in surgery and multi-transfused patients trial study; [48789]

(2) how many patients have been transfused with prion-filtered red cells as part of the prion-filtered red cells in surgery and multi-transfused patients trial; [48784]

(3) when he expects the interim report on the prion-filtered red cells in surgery and multi-transfused patients (PRISM) study trial to be published; and when he expects the PRISM trial study to be completed; [48785]

(4) what progress has been made in the prion-filtered red cells in surgery and multi-transfused patients study trial. [48786]

**Anne Milton:** As of 16 March 2011, quarter 1, 329 patients have received prion-filtered red blood cells, as part of the prion-filtered red blood cells in surgery and multi-transfused patients (PRISM) study, which has now completed recruitment of patients. Quarter 4 as of that date, 942 units of prion-filtered red blood cells have been transfused in England and Scotland as part of the study. In addition to the patients who have received prion-filtered red blood cells, 273 patients have received standard red blood cells, and approximately 10 patients await surgery.

Any patients who have not had surgery by 31 March 2011 will be withdrawn from the PRISM study. NHS Blood and Transport will then focus on collecting the eight-week and six-month follow-up blood samples for antibody testing. The final six-month follow-up is expected in October 2011 and a report will be submitted to the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissue and Organs for its consideration in early 2012, with a peer reviewed journal publication later.

## Breast Cancer: Health Services

**Yvonne Fovargue:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to consult on the development of the Breast Cancer Quality Standard; and what form this consultation will take. [48696]

**Paul Burstow:** Details of the institute's consultations are available from its website at:

www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/qualitystandards/qualitystandards.jsp

## Breast Cancer: Telephone Services

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to provide additional funding to the hereditary breast cancer helpline. [48893]

**Paul Burstow:** We recognise that the hereditary breast cancer helpline provides a valuable service for cancer patients and their families, and a one-off payment of £40,000 was made on 21 March 2011 under the provisions of Section 64 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968.

## Childbirth

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of potential links between low birth rate and levels of *(a)* obesity, *(b)* stress and *(c)* mental illness in (i) childhood and (ii) later life. [48306]

**Anne Milton:** The Department has not carried out any specific assessment on the potential link between low birth weight and levels of obesity, stress and mental illness in childhood and in later life.

Low birth weight is associated in particular with poorer long-term health and education outcomes. It is because of this association that "Healthy Lives, Healthy People" takes a life course approach to tackling health inequalities and improving health outcomes.

As part of the Foresight project on "Tackling Obesities: Future Choices", the Government Office for Science's Foresight team commissioned a number of short science review papers. This included a paper on obesity and early years, and another on breastfeeding, early growth and later obesity. A copy of these papers are available at:

http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-789X.2007.00344.x/full

Some research has found that low birth weight increases the risk of suffering from anxiety and depression.

## CJD

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are enrolled in the National Prion Disease Monitoring Cohort; and how many of those are *(a)* in the group of symptomatic patients with confirmed prion disease, *(b)* in the group of asymptomatic individuals with confirmed pre-clinical prion infection or disease, *(c)* in the group of asymptomatic individuals without a confirmed diagnosis but at increased risk and *(d)* in the control group without prion disease. [48788]

**Anne Milton:** The information requested is shown in the following table:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Number of people enrolled in the National Prion Monitoring Cohort | 275 |
| *(a)* Symptomatic patients with confirmed prion disease | 208 |
| *(b)* Asymptomatic individuals with confirmed pre-clinical prion infection or disease | 14 |
| *(c)* Asymptomatic individuals without a confirmed diagnosis but at increased risk | 19 |
| *(d)* Control group without prion disease | 34 |

*Source:*
National Prion Monitoring Cohort (NPMC) project team at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery

## Heroin

**Andrew Griffiths:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many adults who completed addiction treatment successfully in England in 2008-09 were primarily addicted to *(a)* heroin, *(b)* crack cocaine, *(c)* cocaine, *(d)* amphetamine and *(e)* cannabis on presentation for treatment. [48846]

**Anne Milton:** The national drug treatment monitoring system records data on people in drug treatment in England. For 2008-09, the numbers of adults who completed drug treatment successfully for the requested range of primary problem drugs are as follows:

| *Main problem drug* | *Number of adults* |
|---|---|
| Opiates only | 7,312 |
| Crack only | 2,033 |
| Both opiates and crack | 5,081 |
| Amphetamines (excluding ecstasy) | 1,113 |
| Cocaine (excluding crack) | 4,196 |
| Cannabis | 4,044 |
| Other drugs | 1,191 |
| Total | 24,970 |

## Human Papillomavirus: Vaccination

**Dr Poulter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many parents in *(a)* Suffolk primary care trust area and *(b)* England did not consent to their daughter receiving the national human papillomavirus vaccine in (i) 2009 and (ii) 2010. [48824]

**Anne Milton:** The requested information is not held by the Department.

Information about annual human papillomavirus vaccine uptake in England has been published by the Department for the academic years 2008-09 and 2009-10 and can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_111675

and

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_123795

respectively.

However it is not possible to infer from uptake data the proportion of individuals who did not consent to be vaccinated.

### Liver Diseases

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the incidence of *(a)* cirrhosis of the liver and *(b)* chronic liver disease in each of the last 10 years. [48480]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department does not hold information on the incidence rates of these diseases.

### Medical Equipment: Safety

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what procedures his Department uses to assess the safety of medical devices. [48787]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency is the competent authority under European Union legislation for medical devices in the United Kingdom: it has responsibility for ensuring that medical devices placed on the UK market meet the requirements of the medical devices regulations. Before placing a medical device on the market, the manufacturer must meet the relevant safety, quality and performance requirements set out in the regulations and apply the CE marking of conformity. Any assessment required under the regulations is carried out by a third-party independent certification organisation known as a Notified Body. The Agency is not part of this certification process but does designate and audit UK Notified Bodies as being competent to undertake this task and also assesses pre-market clinical investigation protocols. The Agency has a mainly post-market surveillance role which includes assessment of adverse incidents brought to its attention and enforcement where breaches of the regulations have been identified.

### Mental Health Services

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of patients treated for mental health disorders in NHS facilities received *(a)* drugs, *(b)* psychological therapy, *(c)* mindfulness meditation and *(d)* a combination of such approaches in the latest period for which figures are available. [48305]

**Paul Burstow:** We do not collect all of the information in the format requested. All mental health patients who are admitted to hospital will have a responsible clinician. 21.1% of them also have contact with a psychologist or psychotherapist.

*Number of people using adult and elderly national health service secondary mental health services and the proportion who had contact with a clinical psychologist or psychotherapist, 2009-10*

| | *All mental health service users* | *Clinical psychologist or psychotherapist contact*[1] | *Proportion of mental health service users with a clinical psychologist or psychotherapist contact (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total number of people | 1,270,731 | 168,486 | 13.3 |
| *Of which:* | | | |
| Admitted to Hospital | 107,765 | 22,713 | 21.1 |

*Note:*

Count of mental health service users who had contact with either a clinical psychologist and psychotherapist during the reporting period.

*Source:*

Health and Social Care Information Centre Mental Health Minimum Dataset (MHMDS) 2003-04 to 2009-10 annual returns.

### Mental Illness

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of looked after children were diagnosed with mental illness in the latest period for which figures are available. [48477]

**Paul Burstow:** The Department does not collect this information. However, the Office for National Statistics psychiatric morbidity surveys programme shows that some 45% of looked after children have a mental health disorder, rising to 72% for those in residential care.

The Department has published statutory guidance on promoting the health and wellbeing of looked after children. In addition, "No health without mental health: delivering better mental health outcomes for people of all ages", published on 2 February 2011, highlighted the mental health needs of looked after children and care leavers and stated that timely and effective health assessments are crucial to the speedy identification of problems and referral to support services.

### NHS: Charitable Donations

**Mr Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether donations made by charities to an NHS trust will be regarded as part of their income under his proposals for NHS reform; and whether such donations will result in a corresponding reduction in the central Government funding allocated to the trust. [48410]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The current Health and Social Care Bill would make no change to the status of NHS charities. The NHS Commissioning Board would allocate funding to general practitioner commissioning consortia on the basis of the prospective burden of disease and disability. This would not be affected by other income received by trusts.

### Obesity

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what levels of obesity in each *(a)* income and *(b)* age decile were in the latest period for which figures are available. [48492]

**Anne Milton:** Information is not available in the format requested.

Information on the percentage of obese adults by equivalised household income quintiles, in England in 2009, is included in table 7.3 of the 'Health Survey for England—2009: Health and lifestyles' report. Information on the percentage of obese adults by age group is included in table 7.2 of the same report.

Information on the percentage of obese children (aged 2 to 15) by equivalised household income quintiles, in England in 2009, is included in table 11.3 of the 'Health Survey for England—2009: Health and lifestyles' report. Information on the percentage of obese children by age is included in table 11.2 of the same report.

The above information is available on the NHS Information Centre's website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/hse09report

This publication has already been placed in the Library.

### Parenting Classes: Prenatal classes

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of local authorities offer *(a)* parenting classes and *(b)* pre-natal classes which are free at the point of use. [48511]

**Anne Milton:** The information requested is not collected by the Department.

### Departmental Plants

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on indoor and outdoor plants and trees since his appointment. [48421]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department has spent a total of £12,383.80 on plants and trees in the period May 2010 to March 2011 for its core headquarters estate. For the period from May 2010, the monthly charge was £1,426.96. This reduced to £598.77 from December 2010 when the facilities management contract was awarded to a new provider and we reduced our monthly costs on plants and trees significantly.

### Radiotherapy Treatments

**Alison Seabeck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many stereotactic body radiotherapy treatments were carried out *(a)* in NHS hospitals and *(b)* for NHS patients in each strategic health authority area in the last 12 months. [48912]

**Paul Burstow:** Stereotactic body radiotherapy cannot currently be identified from other forms of radiotherapy treatment using hospital episode statistics data.

"Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer", published on 12 January, has made clear the importance of high quality information for commissioners, providers, clinicians, patients, researchers and those seeking to scrutinise health services. In line with this, we will consider whether more specific coding of cancer activity is needed in some areas. A copy of the strategy has already been placed in the Library.

### Smoking

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of the provisions of the Health Act 2006 on reducing the number of *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged under 17 who (i) smoke and (ii) take up smoking; and if he will make a statement. [48871]

**Anne Milton:** The Health Act 2006 includes provisions for smoke-free environments and powers to amend the age of sale of tobacco products.

Under the powers in the Health Act 2006, the Children and Young Persons (Sales of Tobacco etc.) Order 2007 was made to raise the age of sale for tobacco products from 16 to 18 years. The order came into force in England and Wales on 1 October 2007. While data are not available in the format requested, research published in 2010 found that there was a greater fall in prevalence in 16 and 17-year-olds in England following the increase in the age of sale than in older age groups (Fidler J. and West R. (2010). 'Changes in smoking prevalence in 16-17-year-olds versus older adults following a rise in legal age of sale: findings from an English population study' in "Addiction". 105, pp.1984-8). A copy of this article has been placed in the Library.

The primary objective of smoke-free legislation was to reduce the risk to health from exposure to secondhand smoke, and no assessment has been made of the impact of this legislation on reducing smoking rates among young people. On 9 March 2011, the Department published 'The Impact of Smokefree Legislation in England: Evidence Review'. A copy of this review has already been placed in the Library.

### Smoking: Young People

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of *(a)* adults, *(b)* children and *(c)* young people were recorded as smokers in each of the last 10 years; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent numbers and proportions for each of the next five years. [48481]

**Anne Milton:** Information is not available in the format requested. We hold information for adults (aged 16 and over) and young people (aged 11-15) but we do not hold information for children under 11.

Information on the prevalence of cigarette smoking by sex in England from 1978 to 2009 can be found in table 1.10 of "General Lifestyle Survey: Smoking and drinking among adults 2009". This is available at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_compendia/GLF09/GLFSmoking-DrinkingAmongAdults2009.pdf

A copy has been placed in the Library.

Table 3.1a of "Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2009" shows smoking behaviour among young people aged 11-15 by sex for the period 1982-2000. Table 3.1b shows the same information for the period 2001-09. These are available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/sdd09fullreport

The Department does not hold any forecasted estimates of the prevalence of smoking for either adults or young people. The Government have set ambitions to reduce smoking rates among adults, young people and pregnant women in England by the end of 2015, as described in "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A Tobacco Control Plan for England", published on 9 March 2011.

The publications "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A tobacco control plan for England" and "Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2009" have already been placed in the Library.

### Work-based Stress

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements are in place in his Department to *(a)* reduce levels of work-based stress and *(b)* provide assistance to staff diagnosed with such stress. [48205]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department provides guidance to all staff and managers on stress recognition and stress management on the departmental intranet. Specifically, the mental health policy covers prevention; early dialogue and identification; mutual understanding of issues and concerns; and sets out the support to individuals and managers to help employees remain at work and perform to the best of their abilities. The support in place includes an occupational health service, which has been designed specifically to meet the needs of staff and managers. There is also a comprehensive employee assistance programme, offering a free counselling service on a 24-hour-a-day, seven-days-a-week basis as well as a helpline for managers. As part of our renewed health and well-being strategy, both the occupational health and employee assistance providers will be working with the Department on organisation-wide initiatives, such as developing emotional resilience during times of change.

Alongside the support for all staff, there is a specific policy covering reasonable adjustments for disabled staff, in line with the requirements of the Equality Act.

The Department's Health and Well-being Board has set out the indicators that will be used to assess progress against the health and well-being strategy and action plan. These include sickness absence data and, more specifically, absence that is mental health related.

### Substance Misuse

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate has been made of addiction rates in each region for *(a)* alcohol, *(b)* tobacco and *(c)* controlled substances. [48307]

**Anne Milton:** Data on alcohol dependence are included in the adult psychiatric morbidity survey, "Adult Psychiatric Morbidity in England, 2007" (APMS), which was published in January 2009. The Department estimates alcohol dependence by reference to a score of 16 or more on the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT)[1]. Estimates of the percentage of alcohol dependent individuals aged 16 or over by region are in the following table.

[1] AUDIT was developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a method of screening for excessive drinking and to help identify alcohol dependence. It consists of 10 questions about recent alcohol use, alcohol dependence symptoms, and alcohol-related problems.

*Estimate of the percentage of alcohol dependent[1] individuals aged 16 or over by region*

| | *Males* | *Females* |
|---|---|---|
| North East | 10.2 | 3.7 |
| North West | 6.4 | 2.3 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 6.2 | 2.7 |
| East Midlands | 4.0 | 2.2 |
| West Midlands | 6.7 | 2.0 |
| East of England | 6.2 | 0.6 |
| London | 4.4 | 1.3 |
| South West | 5.7 | 1.7 |
| South East | 5.4 | 1.9 |
| | | |
| England | 5.8 | 1.9 |

[1] Scoring 16 or more on the AUDIT

*Note:*

This definition is consistent with that used in the Alcohol Needs Assessment Research Project (ANARP) published in 2005. ANARP used a cut-off score on the AUDIT of 16 to identify 'moderately or severely dependent' drinkers, and with a view to estimating the need for treatment.

*Source:*

APMS, 2007

In the APMS, alcohol dependence was also assessed using the Severity of Alcohol Dependence Questionnaire (SADQ-C), with a score of four or more indicating mild, moderate or severe dependence. This includes cases of mild dependence not requiring any interventions. The figures for this definition are in the following table.

*Percentage prevalence of alcohol dependence by region and sex*

| | *Government office region* | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *SADQ-C Score[1]* | *North East* | *North West* | *Yorkshire and the Humber* | *East Midlands* | *West Midlands* | *East of England* | *London* | *South West* | *South East* |
| *Men* | | | | | | | | | |
| 0-3 | 92.3 | 87.4 | 88.8 | 91.9 | 92.1 | 90.9 | 93.9 | 93.1 | 92.1 |
| 4-19 | 6.9 | 11.9 | 10.4 | 8.1 | 6.0 | 7.6 | 5.5 | 5.2 | 7.5 |
| 20-34 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.8 | — | 1.9 | 1.0 | 0.5 | 1.7 | 0.3 |
| 35-60 | — | 0.1 | — | — | — | 0.5 | — | — | 0.1 |

*Percentage prevalence of alcohol dependence by region and sex*

| | *Government office region* | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *SADQ-C Score*[1] | *North East* | *North West* | *Yorkshire and the Humber* | *East Midlands* | *West Midlands* | *East of England* | *London* | *South West* | *South East* |
| Any dependence | 7.7 | 12.6 | 11.2 | 8.1 | 7.9 | 9.1 | 6.1 | 6.9 | 7.9 |
| *Women* | | | | | | | | | |
| 0-3 | 93.3 | 95.9 | 96.9 | 94.9 | 96.7 | 98.3 | 97.8 | 97.0 | 97.2 |
| 4-19 | 6.5 | 4.1 | 3.1 | 5.1 | 3.1 | 1.4 | 2.1 | 3.0 | 2.8 |
| 20-34 | — | — | — | 0.3 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 35-60 | 0.2 | — | 0.1 | — | 0.1 | — | — | — | — |
| Any dependence | 6.7 | 4.1 | 3.1 | 5.1 | 3.3 | 1.7 | 2.2 | 3.0 | 2.8 |

[1] A SADQ-C score of 0-3 = no dependence, 4-19 = mild dependence, 20-34 = moderate dependence and 35-60 = severe dependence

*Source:*
APMS, 2007

Data on the prevalence of cigarette smoking among individuals aged 16 years and over in each region in England are collected by the Office for National Statistics and reproduced in the following table for 2009.

*Percentage prevalence of cigarette smoking by sex and region for individuals aged 16 or over, 2009*

| | *Males* | *Females* |
|---|---|---|
| North East | 20 | 23 |
| North West | 24 | 22 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 23 | 22 |
| East Midlands | 19 | 18 |
| West Midlands | 22 | 21 |
| East of England | 20 | 18 |
| London | 26 | 19 |
| South West | 19 | 17 |
| South East | 21 | 18 |
| England | 22 | 20 |

*Source:*
Smoking and drinking among adults, 2009: A report on the 2009 General Lifestyle Survey

Data on the number or rate of individuals who are dependent on controlled substances are not centrally collected. However, data on those who are opiate and/or crack cocaine dependent are collected and are given in the following table.

*Estimated number of opiate and/or crack cocaine users by region, 2008-09*

| | *Estimated number of problem drug users* |
|---|---|
| North East | 18,480 |
| North West | 52,055 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 39,254 |
| East Midlands | 26,034 |
| West Midlands | 37,125 |
| East of England | 22,871 |
| London | 62,769 |
| South West | 27,549 |
| South East | 35,092 |
| England | 321,229 |

*Source:*
Estimates of the Prevalence of Opiate Use and/or Crack Cocaine Use, 2008-09: Sweep 5 report, The Centre for Drug Misuse Research, University of Glasgow

## Surgery: Ashfield

**Gloria De Piero:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations were carried out in Ashfield constituency in each of the last five years. [48343]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table.

| *Provider description* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 44,386 | 42,038 | 45,312 | 49,443 | 51,679 |

*Source:*
Hospital Episode Statistics, The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

The NHS Information Centre has provided a count of finished consultant episodes with a named main or secondary procedure or intervention for Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust from 2005-06 to 2009-10.

## Departmental Theft

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what items with a value of over £100 have been taken without authorisation from his Department since his appointment; and what steps have been taken to recover such items. [48440]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The following departmental assets valued at over £100 have been reported as lost or stolen since the appointment of the Secretary of State for Health.

| *Item* | *Value (£)* |
|---|---|
| 3G card | 252.53 |
| Blackberry | 215.02 |
| Blackberry | 215.02 |
| Blackberry | 215.02 |
| Blackberry | 215.02 |
| Blackberry | 215.02 |
| Blackberry | 215.02 |
| Blackberry | 215.02 |
| Blackberry | 215.02 |
| Blackberry | 215.02 |
| Blackberry | 215.02 |
| Blackberry | 215.02 |

| *Item* | *Value (£)* |
|---|---|
| Blackberry | 215.02 |
| Blackberry | 221.40 |
| Blackberry | 215.25 |
| Blackberry | 252.91 |
| Blackberry 8520 | 215.02 |
| Blackberry 8700 | 215.02 |
| Blackberry 8700 | 215.02 |
| Blackberry 8700 | 215.02 |
| Blackberry 8700 | 215.25 |
| Blackberry 8700 | 214.20 |
| Blackberry 8700 | 214.20 |
| Blackberry 8700v | 215.02 |
| Blackberry 8700v | 215.02 |
| Blackberry 8700v | 215.02 |
| Blackberry 8900 | 154.21 |
| Blackberry curve | 215.02 |
| Blackberry curve | 215.02 |
| Blackberry curve | 215.02 |
| Blackberry | 215.02 |
| Palm Treo mobile phone | 351.00 |
| IBM laptop | 826.71 |
| IBM Thinkpad laptop | 885.00 |
| IBM X61 Thinkpad laptop | 878.94 |
| Laptop | 858.10 |
| Lenovo 200 laptop | 893.54 |
| Lenovo laptop | 893.54 |
| Lenovo laptop | 893.81 |
| Total | 13,166.05 |

Staff are requested to provide a loss report for each item lost or stolen. This includes the circumstances of the loss, description of the item and whether a police report has been made.

All mobile assets that are reported as lost or stolen with a value over £500 are routinely reported to the police. In addition laptops are marked with a forensic dye and an asset tag. This is combined with the registration of unique serial numbers on the lost mobile equipment national database to aid recovery.

### Third Sector

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department provided to each charity it funds in each of the last five years; and how much he has allocated for funding to each such charity in each of the next five years. [48275]

**Anne Milton:** Information about grants awarded to voluntary organisations through the Department's corporate grant schemes for the last five years have been placed in the Library.

Information on individual grant awards in each of the last five years, where allocated from a specific policy area, has not been centrally collected and therefore is not available. However, the Department has now put in place mechanisms for collecting this information from 2010-11 onwards. Information on grant awards in 2010-11 has been placed in the Library.

The Department has a voluntary sector grants budget which provides grants to voluntary organisations. The total budget for each of the last five years is as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 23,764,297 |
| 2007-08 | 25,272,919 |
| 2008-09 | 24,493,002 |
| 2009-10 | 25,017,648 |
| 2010-11 | 25,400,000 |
| 2011-12 | 25,400,000 |

Information relating to future years will be routinely published on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_118373

The monetary value of the Department's grants to voluntary sector organisations for 2012-13 and onwards will not be agreed until primary care trust allocations have been decided. However, the Government are committed to ensuring that appropriate support is available to voluntary organisations to enable them to contribute to improving health and well-being and building strong and resilient communities as part of the big society.

### Tobacco: Packaging

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the tobacco action plan, what timetable he has set for the publication of the conclusions from his planned consultation on options to reduce the promotional impact of tobacco packaging, including plain packaging. [48935]

**Anne Milton:** "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A Tobacco Control Plan for England" includes the commitment to consult on options to reduce the promotional impact of tobacco packaging, including plain packaging, before the end of 2011. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

In accordance with the Government code of practice on consultation, this consultation will last for at least 12 weeks. A summary of who responds, the views expressed, any decisions made and the likely forward timetable for any subsequent action will be published after the consultation responses have been considered.

## JUSTICE

### Coroners: Finance

**James Wharton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimate has been made of the cost to the public purse incurred in the implementation of his planned reforms to the coronial system; [48182]

(2) what estimate he made of the cost to the public purse of the creation of the office of chief coroner. [49076]

**Mr Djanogly:** As announced in the written ministerial statement on 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 36-37WS, changes to the coroners' services will be cost-neutral. The only expenditure incurred to date relates to staff costs for implementing part 1 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009. Since announcing the proposal to abolish the chief coroner on 14 October 2010, staffing costs have been £143,855. In the period between Royal Assent in November 2009 and this announcement, staffing costs were £387,140. The proposal to abolish the chief coroner before the post is fully established means that the estimated £10.9 million set-up costs and £6.6 million running costs would no longer be incurred by the public purse.

### Court: Closures

**Helen Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimate he has made of the savings to the public purse to accrue from the closure of Bishop Auckland *(a)* county court and *(b)* magistrates court; [48853]

(2) how many staff posts will be lost as a result of the closure of Bishop Auckland county court. [49007]

**Mr Djanogly:** At the time decisions on the court estate were announced, on 14 December 2010, the estimated gross annual resource savings from the closure of Bishop Auckland magistrates and county court were £123,000 (excluding maintenance, staff costs and non-cash). Work is currently under way to determine the final savings and costs of closure (including transition costs).

It is not yet possible to confirm the impact on the overall number of posts following the closure of Bishop Auckland county court and other courts in the HMCS area of Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria. However, all staff at the Bishop Auckland courthouse will be relocated to other nearby courts.

Following the decisions announced on 14 December, HMCS commenced an internal consultation using the Management of Organisational Change Framework (MOCF) to look at staff impacts across the court estate reform programme. HMCS is conducting discussions with the Department trade union side and with staff (on a one-to-one basis) to consider how the changes will affect them. Only after this process is completed will the final impact on the number of staff posts be known.

After the MOCF consultation has concluded, HMCS will implement a phased approach to closures from April 2011.

### Land Registry: Electronic Government

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on the potential for fraud arising from putting Land Registry deeds online; and if he will make a statement. [48894]

**Mr Djanogly:** The register became open to the public in 1990 when the Land Registration Act 1988 came into force. This allowed public inspection and copying of the register and, with the exception of leases and charges, the deeds or documents referred to in the register. The inspection and copying rights were extended in 2003, with the coming into force of the Land Registration Act 2002, allowing leases and charges to be freely available, subject to a transitional period—and exempt information provisions.

This widening in the availability of Land Registry information was made in the context of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which came into force on 1 January 2005, giving anyone the right to request information from public organisations. The general principle is that a person is entitled to see information held by public organisations unless there is a good reason why it should not be released.

The opening up of register information was the subject of parliamentary debate and consultation. It was also set in the context of the Government drive for all public authorities to make all citizen services available online, and in light of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Registered professional users of Land Registry services have been able to access selected property deeds online since 1994. This has helped facilitate conveyancing and related property transactions and the move towards the electronic delivery of services.

Citizen access to property information was made available in 2005 through the launch of a website aimed at the general public. In 2007 Land Registry reviewed the online availability of deeds and documents provided by this service. The review led to the removal of those documents from online viewing. Copies of deeds, which are available as of right under land registration legislation, may still be purchased, but only after completing a registration process.

Land Registry produces a public leaflet entitled "Protect your Property" and stresses the importance of keeping contact addresses up to date as a way of helping to prevent property fraud. Land Registry has a dedicated team dealing with applications from home owners to check their contact addresses and update them as necessary.

### Legal Aid Scheme: Family Law

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what date and in what manner the commissioners of the Legal Services Commission were informed of *(a)* the commission's 2010 tender for family law services and *(b)* the decision of the commission not to appeal against the judgment in respect of the judicial review of that tender; if he will place in the Library a copy of (i) the minutes of each meeting of the commission at which the matters were discussed and (ii) any papers on the matters provided to the commissioners. [48535]

**Mr Djanogly:** The commissioners met regularly to discuss the tender judicial review including some ad hoc telephone conferences. Minutes were taken of all board meetings.

The minutes of LSC board meetings are routinely published on the LSC website, subject to any relevant exemptions under the Freedom of Information Act, at:

http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/aboutus/how/commissioners.asp

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information the Legal Services Commission *(a)* published on its website and *(b)* otherwise disseminated in respect of (i) its 2010 family law tender exercise after the hearing in the Divisional Court on the matter in September 2010 and (ii) the steps the commission planned to take in consequence; on what dates subsequent modifications were made to that information; what modifications were made; and for what reason. [48536]

**Mr Djanogly:** The LSC published notification of the outcome of the tender as a news item on its website on 30 September 2010:

http://legalservices.gov.uk/civil/cls_news_12035.asp?page=5

Then it confirmed that it would not appeal on 27 October 2010:

http://legalservices.gov.uk/civil/cls_news_12103.asp?page=4

LSC then published a further statement on the future of family and family and housing contracts on 12 November:

http://legalservices.gov.uk/civil/cls_news_12188.asp?page=4

LSC has also published formal contract extension notices on the website for each subsequent extension of the unified contract:

http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/civil/8758.asp

Further information could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Legal Services Commission has spent on the 2010 family law tender exercise to date, how much it has paid to each counsel instructed in respect of the action taken against the commission; and how much it paid *(a)* to the Law Society of England and Wales and *(b)* to other parties in costs following the conclusion of the action. [48537]

**Mr Djanogly:** The family element of the 2010 legal aid tenders cost in the region of £1 million of project costs over three years. In addition to that, the LSC invested in the region of £600,000 in some e-tendering software, which can be used for three years.

In relation to the judicial review, the costs to counsel were as follows, inclusive of VAT:

Counsel 1: £4,010.00

Counsel 2: £61,981.26

Counsel 3: £89,391.65.

The costs to the Law Society have not yet been finally agreed. No other external parties needed to be paid following the conclusion of the action. LSC's in-house lawyers do not have a computerised time recording system and as no claim for costs is to be made by the commission, a breakdown of the time spent by the in-house legal team on this matter has not been prepared.

### Prison Service: Finance

**Helen Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much HM Prison Service has spent *(a)* on each establishment and *(b)* in each region in 2010-11 to date; and what it has allocated to each for 2011-12. [48896]

**Mr Blunt:** The following table provides the National Offender Management Service's resource spend for each public sector prison by region for an eleven-month period ending February 2011. The table includes Dover, Haslar and Lindholme (IND), which are immigration removal centres, rather than prisons. High-security prisons are shown separately since these are managed centrally and therefore are not attributed to a geographic region.

| *Region* | *Establishment name* | *£ million Resource* |
|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | Ashwell | 7.5 |
| | Foston Hall | 8.3 |
| | Gartree | 15.6 |
| | Glen Parva | 15.9 |
| | Leicester | 8.1 |
| | Lincoln | 13.2 |
| | Morton Hall | 7.2 |
| | North Sea Camp | 5.5 |
| | Nottingham | 20.1 |
| | Onley | 14.7 |
| | Ranby | 18.8 |
| | Stocken | 13.8 |
| | Sudbury | 6.9 |
| | Wellingborough | 10.9 |
| | Wharton | 15.6 |
| East Midlands total | | 182.2 |
| East of England | Bedford | 10.7 |
| | Blundeston | 11.3 |
| | Bullwood Hall | 5.9 |
| | Bure | 10.1 |
| | Chelmsford | 16.0 |
| | Edmunds Hill | 8.3 |
| | Highpoint | 16.1 |
| | Hollesley Bay | 6.4 |
| | Littlehey | 20.2 |
| | Mount (The) | 15.1 |
| | Norwich | 14.4 |
| | Warren Hill | 9.0 |
| | Wayland | 16.3 |
| East of England total | | 159.5 |
| High Security | Belmarsh | 35.7 |
| | Frankland | 35.4 |
| | Full Sutton | 26.2 |
| | Long Lartin | 26.1 |
| | Manchester | 33.0 |
| | Wakefield | 26.4 |
| | Whitemoor | 27.5 |
| | Woodhill | 29.9 |
| High Security total | | 240.3 |
| London | Brixton | 19.5 |
| | Feltham | 29.0 |
| | Holloway | 17.2 |
| | Isis | 11.1 |
| | Latchmere House | 4.0 |
| | Pentonville | 26.6 |
| | Wandsworth | 31.1 |
| | Wormwood Scrubs | 24.5 |
| London total | | 162.9 |
| North East | Acklington | 17.2 |

| *Region* | *Establishment name* | *£ million Resource* |
|---|---|---|
| | Castington | 12.2 |
| | Deerbolt | 12.9 |
| | Durham | 20.2 |
| | Holme House | 22.4 |
| | Kirklevington Grange | 5.0 |
| | Low Newton | 10.5 |
| North East total | | 100.4 |
| North West | Buckley Hall | 8.6 |
| | Garth | 18.3 |
| | Haverigg | 12.4 |
| | Hindley | 16.5 |
| | Kennet | 9.9 |
| | Kirkham | 11.7 |
| | Lancaster Castle | 6.8 |
| | Lancaster Farms | 14.0 |
| | Liverpool | 23.8 |
| | Preston | 16.9 |
| | Risley | 18.9 |
| | Styal | 12.7 |
| | Thorn Cross | 7.8 |
| | Wymott | 20.6 |
| North West total | | 198.8 |
| South East | Albany | |
| | Aylesbury | 11.0 |
| | Blantyre House | 2.7 |
| | Bullingdon | 19.2 |
| | Canterbury | 6.7 |
| | Coldingley | 12.4 |
| | Cookham Wood | 8.6 |
| | Dover | 6.9 |
| | Downview | 9.1 |
| | East Sutton Park | 2.4 |
| | Ford | 7.0 |
| | Grendon | 8.6 |
| | Haslar | 3.3 |
| | Highdown | 20.0 |
| | Huntercombe | 11.6 |
| | Isle of Wight | 35.9 |
| | Kingston | 5.6 |
| | Lewes | 14.1 |
| | Maidstone | 10.5 |
| | Reading | 7.3 |
| | Rochester | 15.1 |
| | Send | 7.7 |
| | Sheppey Cluster | 46.9 |
| | Springhill | 4.3 |
| | Winchester | 13.1 |
| South East total | | 290.2 |
| South West | Bristol | 14.0 |
| | Channings Wood | 14.2 |
| | Dartmoor | 14.3 |
| | Dorchester | 6.7 |
| | Eastwood Park | 10.4 |
| | Erlestoke | 9.5 |
| | Exeter | U.6 |
| | Gloucester | 8.1 |
| | Guys Marsh | 10.5 |
| | Leyhill | 9.5 |
| | Portland | 13.4 |
| | Shepton Mallet | 5.4 |
| | Verne (The) | 10.1 |
| South West total | | 137.4 |
| Wales | Cardiff | 14.7 |
| | Swansea | 8.5 |
| | Usk | 6.9 |
| Wales total | | 30.0 |
| West Midlands | Birmingham | 27.4 |
| | Brinsford | 14.2 |
| | Drake Hall | 7.4 |
| | Featherstone | 13.2 |
| | Hewell | 26.0 |
| | Shrewsbury | 7.8 |
| | Stafford | 13.4 |
| | Stoke Heath | 15.5 |
| | Swinfen Hall | 13.3 |
| | Werrington | 6.4 |
| West Midlands total | | 144.6 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | Askham Grange | 2.8 |
| | Everthorpe | 1U |
| | Hull | 18.6 |
| | Leeds | 21.4 |
| | Lindholme | 16.3 |
| | Lindholme IND | 1.3 |
| | Moorland | 18.5 |
| | New Hall | 12.9 |
| | Northallerton | 5.0 |
| | Wealstun | 15.6 |
| | Wetherby | 14.3 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside total | | 137.8 |
| Grand total | | 1,784.1 |

The National Offender Management Service is currently in the process of finalising budget allocations for 2011-12. Once we have completed this process we will look to provide firm establishment budget allocations for the 2011-12 financial year.

### Prison Service: Manpower

**Helen Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate his Department has made of the likely change in the Prison Service staff complement in each *(a)* region and *(b)* establishment in 2011-12. [49020]

**Mr Blunt:** The National Offender Management Service is currently in the process of finalising budget allocations for 2011-12. Once we have completed this process we will able to provide an indication of staff complements by *(a)* region and *(b)* establishment.

### Prison Service: Redundancy

**Helen Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate his Department has made of the number of Prison Service redundancies in each *(a)* region and *(b)* establishment in 2011-12. [49021]

**Mr Blunt:** The National Offender Management Service is currently in the process of finalising budget allocations for 2011-12. Once we have completed this process we will able to provide an indication of staff complements by *(a)* region and *(b)* establishment and the number of staff above natural wastage we will need to lose.

### Prisons: e-mail

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons prisons do not receive enquiries by email; when the decision was taken that prisons could not be contacted by email; and if he will review the merits of this position. [48466]

**Mr Blunt:** Individual members of staff in prisons each have e-mail addresses and do receive and reply to e-mails. For each establishment to have a general e-mail address would involve IT and staffing costs disproportionate to the benefits. There are various other ways to contact prisons. The Prison Service website:

www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk

provides telephone numbers for each establishment, the public enquiry e-mail address:

public.enquiries@noms.gov.uk

will provide assistance in contacting the right person in an establishment, as will the NOMS public enquiry telephone line (0300 047 6325), and the Ministry of Justice helpline (0203 334 3555) has an option to connect to the NOMS public enquiry line. The prisoner location service is able to provide information on the whereabouts of individual prisoners:

prisoner.location.service@noms.gsi.gov.uk

### Departmental Theft

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what items with a value of over £100 have been taken without authorisation from his Department since his appointment; and what steps have been taken to recover such items. [48437]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Department does not have a central record itemising assets taken without authorisation with a value of over £100. This information is recorded at a local level and it would incur a disproportionate cost to obtain the data requested.

The Department does record details of the losses of IT and telephony equipment, and 34 laptops and 42 BlackBerrys, each valued over £100, have been taken during the period specified.

All MoJ laptops and BlackBerrys are encrypted and protected with a complex password, and all BlackBerrys that are registered as lost or stolen are blocked remotely, making it impossible for them to be used. MOJ also implements security incident management procedures to ensure that the impacts of incidents are risk managed and investigations are undertaken to seek, where possible, to retrieve lost/stolen assets.

The Ministry of Justice adopts Government security policy framework requirements to securely protect its assets.

### Third Sector

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department provided to each charity it funds in each of the last five years; and how much he has allocated for funding to each such charity in each of the next five years. [48278]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The Ministry of Justice was created in May 2007, bringing together the former Department for Constitutional Affairs and part of the Home Office. All figures given are from that date.

The MoJ funds a large number of groups, including registered charities, voluntary and community groups. It would incur disproportionate costs to research each organisation to check its charitable status and to disclose the funding given.

The final figures for third sector funding by the MoJ and its executive agencies in 2010-11 are still being compiled and will be published in the 2010-11 resource accounts. Future funding for these organisations is still to be finalised for 2011-12 onwards—this is still being determined following the 2010 spending review allocation in December 2010.

However, the following information about grants given by the MoJ and its executive agencies to third sector organisations is available:

| *Organisation* | *2009-10 (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| MoJ HQ | 81 |
| NOMS | 4.5 |

Approximately half of this went to Victim Support. The rest was given to organisations who support survivors of domestic assault, sexual abuse and rape. Other organisations receiving grants work to reduce crime, support those affected by crime, mediation services and debt advice.

Prior to 2009-10, the resource accounts included both the grant in aid to the MoJ's non-departmental public bodies along with grants to third sector organisations in the same category.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Carbon Generation

17. **Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to encourage the development of small-scale low-carbon generation by community organisations. [48554]

**Gregory Barker:** The coalition are committed to supporting community ownership of a wide range of renewable energy technologies.

To drive this agenda forward, we launched Community Energy Online to give better advice and introduced the renewable heat incentive, which will significantly add to the financial support already available from feed-in tariffs. Officials are also developing a series of workshops to deliver progress on the ground.

### Marine Renewable Technologies

21. **Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when plans to he has to provide support for the development of marine renewable technologies. [48558]

**Gregory Barker:** Our new UK marine energy programme will accelerate the development and deployment of marine renewable technologies at commercial scale.

We are currently considering the allocation of new funding for wave and tidal technologies, in addition to the review of the renewables obligation, and will announce our decisions by the summer.

### Energy Efficiency

22. **Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to encourage the adoption of energy efficiency measures in public and private sector workplaces. [48559]

**Gregory Barker:** When the Prime Minister pledged that this would be the 'greenest government ever' he also committed central Government to lead by example by reducing our own emissions by 10% within 12 months. I chair the Whitehall working group and we are making good progress, but we need to go further across the public sector.

To help the private sector, the Energy Bill will extend the Green Deal to businesses, making new finance available, which will be especially valuable to smaller firms.

### Energy Use

23. **John Glen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to enable consumers to make informed choices about energy use. [48560]

**Charles Hendry:** The Energy Bill includes powers to legislate to give customers greater control over their energy costs by requiring energy suppliers to inform consumers about the cheapest available tariff. We are also looking at how best to provide information on how consumers' consumption compares to that of similar households.

### Renewable Heat Incentive

24. **Stephen Mosley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the likely contribution of the renewable heat incentive to reducing carbon dioxide emissions. [48561]

**Gregory Barker:** We have calculated that the renewable heat incentive, the first scheme of its kind in the world, will achieve cumulative carbon dioxide savings of 44 million tonnes of carbon dioxide by 2020, equivalent to the annual emissions from 20 new gas-fired power stations.

### Energy Supplies

25. **Mr Raab:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to ensure security of energy supplies. [48562]

**Charles Hendry:** In the short and medium term, our energy supplies are secure. However, we are not complacent.

We are taking a range of actions, including through electricity market reform and the national policy statements, to provide the right environment for investment.

Additionally, we have a provision in the Energy Bill that will reduce the likelihood of a gas supply emergency;

The Government remain vigilant, and we are carefully following international developments, in Japan, in the middle east, and more generally, in case there are actions to be taken or lessons to be learned.

### Carbon Sequestration

**Katy Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether funding can be allocated to a project under the Carbon Capture and Storage Demonstration Programme in advance of statutory project consents being secured. [49008]

**Charles Hendry:** Any award of funding under the Carbon Capture and Storage Demonstration Programme would be contingent upon a project securing all necessary permissions for its development, although this may not preclude assistance to ascertain the detailed cost of a project.

**Katy Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consultation with *(a)* local communities, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* other local and national parties will take place prior to allocating funding from the Carbon Capture and Storage Demonstration Programme. [49009]

**Charles Hendry:** Funding from the Carbon Capture and Storage Demonstration Programme will be awarded to projects following a robust and transparent selection process, with projects assessed against Government objectives for the programme and value for money. Local communities, local authorities and other local and national parties have had the opportunity to comment on our proposed approach following the publication of the further information document "UK CCS Commercial Scale Demonstration Programme: Delivering Projects 2-4 (Further Information)" last December.

**Katy Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what mechanism he has put in place to ensure that the potential effects on the environment and local communities of projects considered for funding under the Carbon Capture and Storage Demonstration Programme are taken into account before a decision is made. [49010]

**Charles Hendry:** Carbon capture and storage projects are complex industrial developments and will be subject to a number of consenting, regulatory and policy requirements, which take into account the local impacts of a project.

Any provision of funding under the Carbon Capture and Storage Demonstration Programme is contingent on a project securing all necessary permissions for its development, although may not preclude work to ascertain the detailed cost of a project.

### Departmental Redundancy

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many civil servants in his Department have been offered voluntary redundancy since April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [49192]

**Gregory Barker:** The Department for Energy and Climate Change has not offered any of its civil servants voluntary redundancy since April 2010.

### Electricity Generation

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the sale by energy companies of generation capacity. [48913]

**Charles Hendry:** The UK currently has an energy only market, where energy companies buy and sell electricity rather than generation capacity. In its electricity market reform consultation, DECC published a number of policy options for a capacity mechanism. These included options that would in principle enable generation capacity as well as energy to play a role in the market. The consultation closed on 10 March and DECC is evaluating responses with a view to publishing a White Paper before summer recess.

### Energy: Housing

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential effects on the implementation of the Green Deal of the application of variable rates of value added tax to different energy-saving materials. [48792]

**Gregory Barker:** A 5% rate of VAT is already available on a large number of the energy-saving products, such as insulation, that are likely to qualify for Green Deal financing.

We have commissioned research to assess the impact that pricing, including VAT rates, could have on consumer demand. The research will be completed prior to this autumn's consultation on the Green Deal secondary legislation.

### Energy: Prices

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will request energy companies to introduce a uniform basic tariff for electricity and gas costs incurred by consumers. [49163]

**Charles Hendry:** Energy tariffs are a matter for Ofgem, which recently announced the findings of its review of retail markets. This found that complex pricing structures and an increase in the number of tariffs are contributing to lower consumer engagement and proposed restricting the number of standard "evergreen" tariffs to one per payment method with readily comparable simple unit prices.

We welcome Ofgem's proposals for strong action to empower consumers through better information and simpler tariffs. A copy of its Retail Market Review—Findings and initial proposals is available online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Markets/RetMkts/rmr/Documents1/RMR_FINAL.pdf

### Energy: Sales

**Oliver Colvile:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will amend the provisions of Standard Licence Condition 7a on the sale of energy contracts to micro businesses and small business to bring them into line with the licence conditions governing sales to residential consumers. [49024]

**Charles Hendry:** Licensing is a matter for Ofgem and we welcome their recently announced consultation, included in its report "The Retail Market Review—Findings and initial proposals", on whether the levels of protection proposed for domestic consumers in this area should be extended to the non-domestic sector. A copy of this report can be found online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Markets/RetMkts/rmr/Documents1/RMR_FINAL.pdf

The consultation questions are on page 57.

### National Grid

**Mr Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the loss of energy through transmission in the National Grid. [48835]

**Charles Hendry:** The Government recognise the importance of keeping transmission losses to a minimum. Minimising losses reduces the amount of electricity that needs to be produced, in turn resulting in lower carbon emissions and other costs. National Grid is incentivised to minimise transmission losses as part of its annual system operator incentive scheme set by Ofgem. In addition, Ofgem is considering whether further incentives should be placed on Transmission Owners in the next Transmission Price Control Review (2013-21) to help reduce losses and how these would operate. This will be covered in Ofgem's strategy decision document, due to be published on 30 March 2011.

### Work-based Stress

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what arrangements are in place in his Department to *(a)* reduce levels of work-based stress and *(b)* provide assistance to staff diagnosed with such stress. [48210]

**Gregory Barker:** DECC is committed to protecting the health, safety and welfare of our employees. The Department recognises that workplace stress is a health and safety issue and acknowledges the importance of identifying and reducing workplace stressors. The arrangements to reduce workplace stress include:

Information on stress, including how to recognise it and a manager's checklist, is available on the HR intranet.

Links on the health and safety pages of the intranet to the HSE guidance and sources of support. DECC uses the HSE management standards website to follow the comprehensive information to assist in reducing and tackling work-related stress.

All staff have the tools and opportunity to work flexibly, subject to normal work requirements, and this helps enable a better work-life balance.

A one-day course to share, change experiences and learn techniques to manage personal stress is available to staff.

The employee assistance programme is a dedicated information and counselling support service for staff and offers help and assistance for those who may feel they are suffering from adverse levels of stress. This is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

If a member of staff is diagnosed with stress, additional one-to-one help is available and may include an occupational health referral to gain medical advice.

### Wind Power

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) if he will estimate the proportion of wind turbines installed in the UK which use direct drive technology derived from rare earth metals; and if he will make a statement; [48186]

(2) what assessment he has made of the environmental effects of the manufacture of direct drive technology for use in wind turbines; and if he will make a statement. [48187]

**Charles Hendry:** I understand that the proportion of wind turbines installed in the UK which use direct drive technology derived from rare earth metals is negligible (less than 1%)—and only 4% to 5% of turbines worldwide use this technology.

I refer the hon. Lady to the answer I gave her on 4 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 616W, regarding the assessment of the environmental effects of the use of rare earth metals in wind turbines.

My officials are in regular contact with wind developers and turbine manufacturers as well as renewable trade associations and will continue to keep this issue under review.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Aimhigher Programme

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many potential students were reached by AimHigher in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [48377]

**Mr Willetts** *[holding answer 22 March 2011]:* Aimhigher is managed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). HEFCE has provided the following information on the number of potential students reached by Aimhigher.

In 2009-10 Aimhigher reached 1,210,362 potential students. Due to changes in the monitoring procedures adopted by Aimhigher partnerships, comparable figures for previous years are not available.

### Beer: Competition

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* representatives of (i) pub companies, (ii) breweries, (iii) pub licensees and (iv) consumers, *(b)* the Campaign for Real Ale and *(c)* other interested parties on the (A) beer tie and (B) voluntary reform of the pub industry. [48375]

**Mr Davey** *[holding answer 22 March 2011]:* The Department has recently had discussions with representatives from the Independent Pub Confederation, the British Institute of Innkeeping, the British Beer and Pub Association and the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors in its role of monitoring the pub industry's progress towards self-reform, as set out by the Business, Innovation and Skills Select Committee.

The Office of Fair Trading's final decision on the Campaign for Real Ale's (CAMRA) super complaint regarding beer ties concluded that the pub sector in the UK is competitive overall and it has not found evidence of competition problems that are having a significant adverse impact on consumers.

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consideration he has given to the implementation of a statutory industry code of practice for the pub industry. [48376]

**Mr Davey** *[holding answer 22 March 2011]:* The Government are currently monitoring the industry's progress towards self-reform within the timeframe set out by the Business, Innovation and Skills Select Committee.

### Business: Higher Education

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2011, *Official Report,* columns 485-86W, on business: higher education, how many businesses participated in funding partnerships with universities through *(a)* the Research Council's Pathways to Impact, *(b)* HEFCE's Research Excellence Framework, *(c)* the Higher Education Innovation Funding and *(d)* ongoing collaboration between the Research Councils and the Technology Strategy Board in each of the last five years; how many businesses he expects to participate in such partnerships in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [46994]

**Mr Willetts** *[holding answer 15 March 2011]:* Research Council Pathways to Impact are not a system for allocating separate funding. The first Research Excellence Framework assessment will be in 2014. Higher Education Innovation Funding is allocated to higher education institutions to support their interactions with business and other users. Higher Education Business and Community Innovation Survey data on the number of university contracts with businesses are available at:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/econsoc/buscom/hebci/

Collaborations between business and academe are enabled through a range of activities by the Technology Strategy Board, not all of which involve funding partnership with the research councils. Overall, through its support for collaborative research and development (R and D) projects, the Technology Strategy Board has provided support to approximately 1,500 unique businesses and about 2/3 of projects have at least one academic partner (more may have academic sub-contractors). Furthermore, there are currently over 1,000 live knowledge transfer partnerships, and each of these is a partnership between business and the knowledge base, a majority of which will be higher education institutes. Such partnerships are likely to continue going forward, but it would not be possible to specify numbers as projects as individual collaborative R and D projects can range from £10,000 to £100 million, and are funded on the basis of their technical and economic merit with no pre-set targets for the number of partnerships.

### Education: English Language

**Shabana Mahmood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what representations he has received from providers of English for Speakers of Other Languages courses on his proposals to change the fee remission rate in England; [48855]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the number of students on English for Speakers of Other Languages courses in receipt of full fee remission who would be eligible for his proposed 50 per cent. fee remission rate; [48856]

(3) what recent estimate he has made of the total savings to his Department from the removal of full fee remission for students on English for Speakers of Other Languages courses in each of the next three years. [48857]

**Mr Hayes:** Ministers receive a significant number of representations from further education providers, many of whom deliver English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses and have taken the opportunity to discuss changes to fee remission including ESOL.

From August 2011, full Government funding will be provided for ESOL to unemployed people in receipt of jobseeker's allowance or in the Employment and Support Allowance (Work-Related Activity) Group, where English language skills have been identified as a barrier to entering employment. We will also continue to pay 50% of ESOL course fees for people who are settled here. We will no longer fund ESOL courses delivered in the workplace.

The equality impact assessment published alongside "Skills for Sustainable Growth" (November 2010) found that, at the aggregate level, there are unlikely to be disproportionate impacts on protected groups. A separate assessment of how the changes may affect ESOL learners is currently being carried out by this Department, and I expect to be able to publish the assessment in due course.

### Higher Education: Admissions

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many funded places there were for each foundation degree course at each higher education institution in each of the last five years; and how many places there will be in each of the next three years. [48174]

**Mr Willetts:** The latest available information from the Higher Education Funding Council for England will be placed in the Library of the House. Historical figures are not available at an individual course level; the figures show the total number of HEFCE-funded and non-HEFCE-funded foundation degree students in English higher education institutions and further education colleges from 2006-07 to 2010-11. Information on the number of foundation degree places in each of the next three years is not available as we do not plan for the number of students at a course or subject level. The actual number of places on foundation degree courses will depend on the decisions of individual institutions and students.

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many potential students were reached under university access agreements in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [48378]

**Mr Willetts** *[holding answer 22 March 2011]:* This is a matter for the Director of Fair Access. The Office for Fair Access have confirmed that the director makes no assessment of the number of potential students reached through the additional outreach activities undertaken by institutions through their access agreements.

The Director of Fair Access publishes annual monitoring reports setting out the outcomes of the Office for Fair Access' annual monitoring of access agreements. The latest report is for 2008/09 and is available at:

www.offa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/08/05_Offa-Access-monitoring.pdf

The report for 2009/10 will be published in a few months.

### Higher Education: Autism

**Mr Buckland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assistance his Department provides to individuals with autism and related conditions who wish to go to university; and what plans he has for such assistance over the comprehensive spending review period. [48241]

**Mr Willetts:** As part of widening participation, the Government provide financial support to disabled students in higher education (HE). They are supported via (i) the institution they attend and (ii) individually through disabled students' allowances (DSAs).

The Government provide funding to HE institutions, through the Higher Education Funding Council for England, to help them recruit and support disabled students; £13.2 million has been provided in the academic year 2010/11. Universities wanting to charge more than a £6,000 annual graduate contribution will have to demonstrate to the Director of Fair Access what more they will do to attract a higher proportion of students from under-represented groups, including students with disabilities.

In addition, DSAs are available to help individual students in HE with the extra costs they may incur on their course because of a disability, including autism and related conditions. In academic year 2010/11 eligible undergraduate students may receive the following:

£

| Allowance | Maximum payable to eligible full-time undergraduates | Maximum payable to eligible part-time undergraduates |
|---|---|---|
| Specialist equipment allowance (for the duration of the course) | 5,161 | 5,161 |
| Non-medical helper allowance | 20,520 | 15,390 |
| General allowance | 1,724 | 1,293 |
| Travel allowance | [1]— | [1]— |

[1] Unlimited

For postgraduate students (full or part-time) there is one allowance to meet all costs, up to £10,260 in 2010/11.

DSAs do not depend on income and do not have to be repaid. They are paid in addition to the standard student finance package; we have no plans to change that.

## Students

**Mr McFadden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many undergraduate students are normally resident in Wolverhampton South East constituency; and what proportion of the 18 to 21-year-olds resident in the constituency this figure represents. [49014]

**Mr Willetts:** The latest data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) show there were 1,660 undergraduate enrolments from Wolverhampton South East parliamentary constituency in UK higher education institutions in the 2009/10 academic year. The Department does not hold population statistics at constituency level, therefore the proportion of 18 to 21-year-olds which this figure represents cannot be provided. Comparable figures for students studying higher education courses in further education colleges are not available.

## Students: Fees and Charges

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 439W, on students: fees and charges, when he plans to publish the equality impact assessment on the package of reforms to higher education funding and student finance; and if he will make a statement. [48408]

**Mr Willetts:** The equality impact assessment on the package of reforms to higher education funding and student finance was published on 29 November 2010.

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the likely cost to his Department of the information campaign on the increase in annual tuition fees in 2012-13; what the cost will be of hiring an advertising agency to undertake the campaign; what the budget will be for the production of press, radio and online advertisements; and if he will make a statement. [48702]

**Mr Willetts:** The Department considers it essential to ensure that prospective students and their families know about the full package of support available, to support access to higher education. This Department is working with the Central Office of Information to develop an effective and proportionate information campaign.

We have invited proposals from creative agencies to support this campaign and expect their costs to be in the region of £150,000, including their charges for production of press and online advertisements. The budget for chosen media is yet to be determined.

## Third Sector

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department has taken to support the big society initiative. [42642]

**Mr Davey:** Department for Business innovation and Skills has several programmes aimed at achieving the big society goals of catalysing social action, decentralising power and opening up public services, and which will support the growth agenda. These include:

proposals for the possible mutualisation of Post Office Ltd (POL) with the potential to give sub-postmasters, staff and communities a much greater say in the ownership and running of the Post Office;

improvements to guidance and tools on Businesslink.gov.uk to: (a) help businesses and other organisations to make appropriate choices about legal form and ownership model (including in the context of public service reform and support for social enterprise); and (b) encourage businesses to consider employee ownership and other mutual models; and

creating a single, cohesive network of mentoring providers for the first time in the UK, bringing together at least 40,000 mentors.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department are participating in volunteering activities as part of his Department's involvement in the big society initiative. [42662]

**Mr Davey:** My ministerial colleagues and I support and encourage volunteering through our policy responsibilities, in our constituencies, and by participating in some personal activities. We also encourage our staff to participate in volunteering by offering guidance and special paid time off. As the lead Minister for Every Business Commits in the Government, I am talking to business and our stakeholders about how we can do more to support communities and encourage social action such as volunteering.

### Further Education: Manpower

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time lecturers were employed in the further education sector (i) nationally and (ii) in the west midlands in each of the last three years. [47878]

**Mr Hayes** *[holding answer 22 March 2011]*: The numbers of full and part-time FE teaching staff employed in England and in the west midlands in each of the last three years are set out in the following tables:

*National*

| | *Full-time* | *Part-time* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007/08 | 51,380 | 87,694 |
| 2008/09 | 49,912 | 90,410 |
| 2009/10 | 46,436 | 81,154 |

*Note*:

Mode was unknown for 1,021 staff in 2007-08, 619 staff in 2008-09 and 1,553 staff in 2009-2010. These staff have been excluded from the table.

*West midlands*

| | *Full-time* | *Part-time* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007/08 | 6,606 | 11,644 |
| 2008/09 | 6,539 | 11,629 |
| 2009/10 | 5,930 | 10,767 |

*Note*:

Mode was unknown for 246 staff in 2007-08, eight staff in 2008-09 and 29 staff in 2009-10. These staff have been excluded from the table.

*Source*:

Staff Individualised Record Data

*Note:*

The occupational category 'providing teaching and promoting learning' is used to derive the primary role of each member of staff from the proportion of time that a member of staff spends on this activity. This definition varies slightly to that used in the annual SIR report so staff numbers may vary slightly between these sources.

# Ministerial Correction

*Monday 14 March 2011*

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Regulation

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many regulations sponsored by her Department have been *(a)* introduced since 18 November 2010 and *(b)* revoked since 2 February 2011. [44365]

*[Official Report, 7 March 2011, Vol. 524, c. 878-79W.]*

*Letter of correction from Mr Nick Herbert:*

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) on 7 March 2011.

The answer contained two typographical errors: in the first table the transposition of the words 'Accession (Immigration' and an incorrect S.I. number, and in the second table the omission of a reference to the revoked regulation 3 of S.I. 2009/3136.

The full answer given was as follows:

**Nick Herbert:** The following statutory instruments in the form of regulations have been made by the Department on or after 18 November 2010.

| *S.I. No.* | *S.I. Title* | *Made date* |
|---|---|---|
| 2010 No. 2807 | The Immigration and Nationality (Fees) (No. 2) Regulations 2010 | 21 November 2010 |
| 2010 No. 2826 | The Police Authority (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2010 | 24 November 2010 |
| 2010 No. 2851 | The Licensing Act 2003 (Premises licences and permitted temporary activities) (Forms and notices) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 | 29 November 2010 |
| 2010 No. 2958 | The Immigration (Biometric Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 | 13 December 2010 |
| 2010 No. 3018 | The Private Security Industry Act 2001 (Exemption) (Aviation Security) Regulations 2010 | 20 December 2010 |
| 2010 No. 3030 | The Police Authority (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2010 | 21 December 2010 |
| 2011 No. 230 | The Police Federation (Amendment) Regulations 2011 | 4 February 2011 |
| 2011 No. 300 | The Police Act 1996 (Equipment) Regulations 2011 | 9 February 2011 |
| 2011 No. 448 | The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) (England, Wales and Scotland) Regulations 2011 | 18 February 2011 |
| 2011 No. 544 | The Immigration (Accession and Worker Registration) (Revocation, Savings and Consequential Provisions) Regulations 2011 | 24 February 2011 |

The following statutory instruments in the form of regulations are revoked by the Department since 2 February. None of the revocations are yet in force.

| *(1) Regulations revoked* | *(2) References* | *(3) Extent of revocation* | *(4) Revoking instrument* |
|---|---|---|---|
| The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) (England, Wales and Scotland) Regulations 2010 | S.I 2010/1144 | Regulation 3(a) | S.I 2011/544 |
| The Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006 | S.I. 2006/1003 | Paragraph 7 of Schedule 5 | S.I 2011/544 |
| The Accession (Immigration and Worker Authorisation) Regulations 2006 | S.I. 2006/3317 | Paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 | S.I 2011/544 |
| The Accession (Immigration and Worker Authorisation) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 | S.I. 2007/475 | Regulation 3 | S.I 2011/544 |
| The Accession (Immigration and Worker Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 | S.I. 2007/928 | The whole Regulations | S.I 2011/544 |
| The Accession (Worker Authorisation and Worker Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 | S.I. 2007/3012 | Regulation 3 | S.I 2011/544 |
| The Accession (Immigration and Worker Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2009 | S.I. 2009/892 | The whole Regulations | S.I 2011/544 |
| The Accession (Worker Authorisation and Worker Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2009 | S.I. 2009/2426 | Regulation 3 | S.I 2011/544 |

The correct answer should have been:

**Nick Herbert:** The following statutory instruments in the form of regulations have been made by the Department on or after 18 November 2010:

| *S.I. No.* | *S.I. Title* | *Made Date* |
|---|---|---|
| 2010 No. 2807 | The Immigration and Nationality (Fees) (No. 2) Regulations 2010 | 21 November 2010 |
| 2010 No. 2826 | The Police Authority (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2010 | 24 November 2010 |
| 2010 No. 2851 | The Licensing Act 2003 (Premises licences and permitted temporary activities) (Forms and notices) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 | 29 November 2010 |
| 2010 No. 2958 | The Immigration (Biometric Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 | 13 December 2010 |
| 2010 No. 3018 | The Private Security Industry Act 2001 (Exemption) (Aviation Security) Regulations 2010 | 20 December 2010 |
| 2010 No. 3030 | The Police Authority (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2010 | 21 December 2010 |
| 2011 No. 230 | The Police Federation (Amendment) Regulations 2011 | 4 February 2011 |
| 2011 No. 300 | The Police Act 1996 (Equipment) Regulations 2011 | 9 February 2011 |
| 2011 No. 448 | The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) (England, Wales and Scotland) Regulations 2011 | 18 February 2011 |
| 2011 No. 544 | The Accession (Immigration and Worker Registration) (Revocation, Savings and Consequential Provisions) Regulations 2011 | 24 February 2011 |

The following statutory instruments in the form of regulations are revoked by the department since 2 February. None of the revocations is yet in force.

| *(1) Regulations revoked* | *(2) References* | *(3) Extent of revocation* | *(4) Revoking instrument* |
|---|---|---|---|
| The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) (England, Wales and Scotland) Regulations 2009 | S.I. 2009/3136 | Regulation 3 | S.I. 2011/448 |
| The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) (England, Wales and Scotland) Regulations 2010 | S.I 2010/1144 | Regulation 3(a) | S.I. 2011/448 |
| The Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006 | S.I. 2006/1003 | Paragraph 7 of Schedule 5 | S.I. 2011/544 |
| The Accession (Immigration and Worker Authorisation) Regulations 2006 | S.I. 2006/3317 | Paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 | S.I. 2011/544 |
| The Accession (Immigration and Worker Authorisation) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 | S.I. 2007/475 | Regulation 3 | S.I. 2011/544 |
| The Accession (Immigration and Worker Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 | S.I. 2007/928 | The whole Regulations | S.I. 2011/544 |
| The Accession (Worker Authorisation and Worker Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 | S.I. 2007/3012 | Regulation 3 | S.I. 2011/544 |
| The Accession (Immigration and Worker Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2009 | S.I. 2009/892 | The whole Regulations | S.I. 2011/544 |
| The Accession (Worker Authorisation and Worker Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2009 | S.I. 2009/2426 | Regulation 3 | S.I. 2011/544 |

# Ministerial Correction

*Tuesday 15 March 2011*

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Departmental Expenditure

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what expenditure *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each public body sponsored by his Department incurred on engaging external audit services in each of the last three years; and to which service providers such payments were made in each year. [43759]

*[Official Report, 8 March 2011, Vol. 524, c. 924-926W.]*

*Letter of correction from Mr John Penrose:*

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for North East Cambridgeshire (Stephen Barclay) on 8 March 2011. The incorrect auditor was listed for the Horserace Betting Levy Board. The auditor was Grant Thornton UK LLP, not the National Audit Office.

The correct answer should have been:

**John Penrose:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is audited by the National Audit Office (NAO). The NAO charge notional fees for the audit of central Government Departments and Executive Agencies. There is therefore no expenditure for the external audit of the Department's Resource Accounts and The Royal Parks Accounts.

The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport has management and control responsibilities for the National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF) and the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund (OLDF). Both funds are audited by the NAO and charged a hard fee in cash as set out in the following table.

| *Body* | *Auditor* | *2009-10* | *2008-09* | £<br>*2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Department For Culture, Media and Sport (NLDF) | National Audit Office | 26,500 | 28,900 | 24,000 |
| Department For Culture, Media and Sport (OLDF) | National Audit Office | 26,500 | 28,900 | 24,000 |

Most of the Department's arm's length bodies are audited by the NAO and are charged a hard fee in cash. The two bodies audited by private firms are companies as well as being charities, and have not been designated for audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General under the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000.

The following table sets out the bodies, their auditors and the fees charged as disclosed in the bodies' annual reports and accounts.

| *Body* | *Auditor* | *2009-10* | *2008-09* | £<br>*2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arts Council England[1] | National Audit Office | 68,000 | 75,000 | 60,000 |
| Arts Council England Lottery Account | National Audit Office | 62,000 | 71,000 | 61,000 |
| Big Lottery Fund | National Audit Office | 106,000 | 105,000 | 110,000 |
| British Library | National Audit Office | 53,000 | 52,000 | 50,000 |
| British Museum | National Audit Office | 59,000 | 50,000 | 47,000 |
| Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment | National Audit Office | 28,000 | 27,000 | 26,090 |
| English Heritage | National Audit Office | 74,000 | 69,000 | 61,000 |
| Football Licensing Authority | National Audit Office | 8,900 | 6,900 | 6,200 |
| Gambling Commission | National Audit Office | 39,000 | 47,000 | 33,000 |
| Geffrye Museum | National Audit Office | 9,000 | 7,500 | 6,400 |
| Horniman Museum | BDO Stoy Hayward LLP | 13,100 | 13,825 | 12,450 |
| Horserace Betting Levy Board | Grant Thornton UK LLP | 45,000 | 38,000 | 35,000 |
| Imperial War Museum | National Audit Office | 41,000 | 36,000 | 34,000 |
| Museums, Libraries and Archives Council | National Audit Office | 63,000 | 93,000 | 58,000 |
| Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester | Beever and Struthers | 9,500 | 9,500 | 11,410 |
| National Gallery | National Audit Office | 40,000 | 38,650 | 37,165 |
| National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF)[1] | National Audit Office | 10,000 | 9,000 | 8,000 |
| Heritage Lottery Fund (maintained by NHMF) | National Audit Office | 42,000 | 42,000 | 36,000 |
| National Lottery Commission | National Audit Office | 25,000 | 24,000 | 22,000 |
| National Museums Liverpool | National Audit Office | 54,000 | 50,000 | 45,000 |
| National Maritime Museum | National Audit Office | 36,000 | 35,000 | 33,000 |
| National Museum of Science and Industry | National Audit Office | 92,000 | 92,000 | 87,000 |
| National Portrait Gallery | National Audit Office | 35,000 | 32,000 | 31,000 |
| Natural History Museum | National Audit Office | 49,000 | 51,000 | 46,000 |
| Olympic Delivery Authority | National Audit Office | 238,000 | 212,000 | 158,000 |

| *Body* | *Auditor* | *2009-10* | *2008-09* | £<br>*2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Olympic Lottery Distributor | National Audit Office | 13,000 | 13,000 | 12,000 |
| Public Lending Right Central Fund Account | National Audit Office | 18,000 | 17,500 | 17,000 |
| Royal Armouries | National Audit Office | 36,000 | 36,000 | 41,000 |
| Sir John Soane's Museum | National Audit Office | 14,000 | 14,000 | 8,250 |
| Sport England | National Audit Office | 102,000 | 80,000 | 76,000 |
| Sport England Lottery Distribution Fund | National Audit Office | 55,000 | 52,000 | 47,500 |
| Tate | National Audit Office | 49,000 | 42,000 | 40,000 |
| UKAnti-Doping[2] | National Audit Office | 17,000 | n/a | n/a |
| UK Film Council[1] | National Audit Office | 33,000 | 33,000 | 21,000 |
| UK Film Council Lottery Distribution Fund | National Audit Office | 24,000 | 24,000 | 20,000 |
| UK Sport[1] | National Audit Office | 45,000 | 45,000 | 33,000 |
| UK Sport Lottery Distribution Account | National Audit Office | 28,000 | 28,000 | 26,000 |
| Victoria and Albert Museum | National Audit Office | 45,000 | 45,000 | 37,000 |
| VisitBritain | National Audit Office | 57,000 | 55,000 | 52,000 |
| Wallace Collection | National Audit Office | 23,000 | 22,000 | 22,000 |

[1] Under the National Lottery etc Act 1993, Arts Council England, CE, NHMF, Sport England, UK Film Council and UK Sport are required to produce separate Lottery Distribution accounts. These are audited separately and shown as separate lines from the parent body's accounts.

[2] UK Anti-Doping has only been in independent operation since 2009-10.

*Note:*

The Big Lottery Fund is a Lottery body but has its Lottery income consolidated with its other figures.

# Ministerial Correction

*Friday 18 March 2011*

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### European Union Bill

*The following is an extract from the opening speech given during the European Union Bill's Third Reading debate by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the right hon. Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) on 8 March 2011.*

**Mr Hague:** This Bill deals with the most important EU decisions of all—those on treaty change. However, we believe that there is room for further improvement of parliamentary scrutiny and control over EU decisions, and that is particularly true of justice and home affairs opt-in decisions. It had become clear to us, and to many others in this House—my hon. Friend the Member for Hertsmere, in particular, has raised this—that the established system was inadequate. Therefore, two months ago, my hon. Friend the Minister for Europe, with the support of the Home Secretary and the Justice Secretary, announced a package of measures to strengthen parliamentary control so that there will have to be a vote in both Houses before the Government can decide by 2014 whether to opt in en masse to the existing EU criminal justice and policing measures adopted under the former third pillar. There is now also a minimum requirement for a written statement to Parliament on all opt-in decisions on new EU measures in justice and home affairs. In the case of strong parliamentary interest in a proposed decision to opt in, under the Bill there will be a debate and vote in both Houses on the Government's recommended approach.

*[Official Report, 8 March 2011, Vol. 524, c. 852.]*

*Letter of correction from Mr William Hague:*

An error has been identified in a statement given during my opening speech to the EU Bill's Third Reading debate on 8 March 2011, following a response to a question from the hon. Member for Rochester and Strood (Mark Reckless).

The correct statement should have been:

**Mr Hague:** This Bill deals with the most important EU decisions of all—those on treaty change. However, we believe that there is room for further improvement of parliamentary scrutiny and control over EU decisions, and that is particularly true of justice and home affairs opt-in decisions. It had become clear to us, and to many others in this House—my hon. Friend the Member for Hertsmere, in particular, has raised this—that the established system was inadequate. Therefore, two months ago, my hon. Friend the Minister for Europe, with the support of the Home Secretary and the Justice Secretary, announced a package of measures to strengthen parliamentary control so that there will have to be a vote in both Houses before the Government can decide by 2014 whether to opt in en masse to the existing EU criminal justice and policing measures adopted under the former third pillar. There is now also a minimum requirement for a written statement to Parliament on all opt-in decisions on new EU measures in justice and home affairs. In the case of strong parliamentary interest in a proposed decision to opt in, there will be a debate and vote in both Houses on the Government's recommended approach.

# Ministerial Corrections

*Monday 21 March 2011*

## JUSTICE

### Care Proceedings

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many care proceedings cases in each local authority area are currently open in the family courts; how many were open in each of the last five years; and how many have reached a conclusion *(a)* in 2010 to date and *(b)* each of the last five years. [226]

*[Official Report, 3 June 2010, Vol. 510, c. 55-59W.]*

*Letter of correction from Mr Jonathan Djanogly:*

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Mid Dorset and North Poole (Annette Brooke) on 3 June 2010. The December 2008 figures in Table 1 of the response in relation to care supervision orders outstanding in the Family Proceedings Courts (FPCs) are incorrect.

The full answer given was as follows:

**Mr Djanogly:** Table 1 shows the number of care and supervision cases outstanding as at the end of December in each year from 2005 to 2009 in the Family Proceedings Courts and County Courts of England and Wales. Data are presented by HM Courts Service areas as a local authority area breakdown is not collected centrally and could be obtained only through the inspection of individual case files at disproportionate cost.

*Table 1*

| | *Total number of care and supervision outstanding cases in the Family Proceedings Court* | | | | | *Total number of care and supervision outstanding cases in the County Courts* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *December* | | | | | *December* | | | | |
| *HMCS area* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
| Avon and Somerset Devon and Cornwall, and Gloucestershire | 342 | 350 | 348 | 342 | 370 | 260 | 303 | 275 | 310 | 389 |
| Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Thames Valley | 227 | 187 | 216 | 227 | 301 | 188 | 221 | 175 | 179 | 320 |
| Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk | 282 | 264 | 372 | 282 | 371 | 273 | 236 | 241 | 233 | 286 |
| Cheshire and Merseyside | 126 | 225 | 210 | 126 | 253 | 240 | 300 | 248 | 261 | 356 |
| Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria | 484 | 642 | 636 | 484 | 533 | 198 | 270 | 264 | 235 | 317 |
| Cumbria and Lancashire | 82 | 115 | 113 | 82 | 101 | 185 | 198 | 218 | 200 | 297 |
| Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight and Wiltshire | 162 | 154 | 206 | 162 | 215 | 160 | 151 | 173 | 165 | 233 |
| East Midlands | 395 | 444 | 367 | 395 | 560 | 164 | 176 | 176 | 214 | 287 |
| Greater Manchester | 133 | 174 | 140 | 133 | 295 | 361 | 378 | 394 | 353 | 547 |
| Humber and South Yorkshire | 166 | 183 | 188 | 166 | 201 | 252 | 265 | 239 | 245 | 335 |
| Kent Surrey and Sussex | 325 | 340 | 364 | 325 | 512 | 256 | 260 | 287 | 245 | 340 |
| London Civil and Family | 1,017 | 1,020 | 888 | 1,017 | 1,426 | 850 | 733 | 724 | 561 | 758 |
| Mid and West Wales | 94 | 106 | 97 | 94 | 168 | 67 | 43 | 40 | 53 | 115 |
| North and West Yorkshire | 185 | 169 | 293 | 185 | 409 | 229 | 258 | 240 | 225 | 294 |
| North Wales | 16 | 25 | 30 | 16 | 57 | 57 | 77 | 67 | 52 | 80 |
| South East Wales | 157 | 205 | 162 | 157 | 260 | 136 | 133 | 122 | 116 | 156 |
| Staffordshire and West Mercia | 152 | 217 | 219 | 152 | 274 | 104 | 115 | 88 | 88 | 148 |
| West Midlands and Warwickshire | 303 | 320 | 332 | 303 | 966 | 391 | 340 | 342 | 294 | 464 |
| National total | 4,648 | 5,140 | 5,181 | 4,648 | 7,272 | 4,371 | 4,457 | 4,313 | 4,029 | 5,722 |

*Notes:*
1. The data are taken from the HMCS FamilyMan System and Family Case Tracker.
2. The figures relate to the new HMCS areas.
3. The total number of outstanding cases show the total number of care and supervisions cases open at the end of December each year.

Table 2 shows the number of care and supervision orders made in each calendar year from 2004 to 2008 for county courts and the High Court.

*Table 2*

| | *Care and supervision orders made in the County Courts and High Court, England and Wales* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *HMCS area* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
| Avon and Somerset, Devon and Cornwall and Gloucestershire | 395 | 355 | 334 | 372 | 450 |
| Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Thames Valley | 386 | 274 | 337 | 310 | 331 |

*Table 2*

| | *Care and supervision orders made in the County Courts and High Court, England and Wales* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *HMCS area* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
| Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk | 327 | 325 | 445 | 399 | 350 |
| Cheshire and Merseyside | 330 | 396 | 393 | 466 | 453 |
| Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria | 369 | 403 | 303 | 349 | 464 |
| Cumbria and Lancashire | 316 | 257 | 342 | 327 | 283 |
| Dorset, Hampshire and IOW and Wiltshire | 311 | 255 | 299 | 255 | 272 |
| East Midlands | 391 | 369 | 299 | 292 | 351 |
| Greater Manchester | 561 | 490 | 715 | 736 | 579 |
| Humber and South Yorkshire | 435 | 489 | 559 | 611 | 476 |
| Kent, Surrey and Sussex | 266 | 200 | 418 | 471 | 371 |
| London Civil and Family | 916 | 846 | 989 | 878 | 868 |
| Mid and West Wales | 82 | 113 | 109 | 100 | 71 |
| North and West Yorkshire | 516 | 427 | 484 | 552 | 530 |
| North Wales | 106 | 84 | 92 | 167 | 173 |
| South East Wales | 240 | 278 | 262 | 239 | 168 |
| West Mercia and Staffordshire | 175 | 195 | 208 | 253 | 186 |
| West Midlands and Warwickshire | 474 | 509 | 588 | 434 | 446 |
| National Total | 6,596 | 6,265 | 7,176 | 7,211 | 6,822 |

*Notes:*
1. The data are taken from the HMCS FamilyMan System.
2. Figures relate to the number of children subject to each application.
3. Disposals in each year may relate to applications made in earlier years.
4. Figures are provided for County Courts and the High Court.

Table 3 shows the number of care and supervision orders made from April 2007 to December 2008 in the Family Proceedings Courts; figures for earlier periods are not available for these areas.

More recent statistics than those shown are not yet available.

*Table 3*

| | *Care and supervision orders made in the Family Proceedings Courts, England and Wales* | |
|---|---|---|
| *HMCS area* | *April 2007 to December 2007* | *January 2008 to December 2008* |
| Avon and Somerset, Devon and Cornwall and Gloucestershire | 262 | 361 |
| Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Thames Valley | 174 | 272 |
| Cambridgeshire, Essex. Norfolk and Suffolk | 133 | 202 |
| Cheshire and Merseyside | 139 | 135 |
| Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria | 327 | 387 |
| Cumbria and Lancashire | 85 | 84 |
| Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight and Wiltshire | 107 | 121 |
| East Midlands | 198 | 372 |
| Greater Manchester | 76 | 116 |
| Humber and South Yorkshire | 64 | 153 |
| Kent, Surrey and Sussex | 161 | 258 |
| London Crime, Central and South | 533 | 543 |
| Mid and West Wales | 69 | 56 |
| North and West Yorkshire | 176 | 214 |
| North Wales | 9 | 43 |
| South East Wales | 149 | 172 |
| West Mercia and Staffordshire | 172 | 239 |
| West Midlands and Warwickshire | 93 | 129 |
| National total | 2,927 | 3,857 |

*Notes:*
1. The data are taken from the HMCS FamilyMan System and One Performance Truth database.
2. Figures relate to the number of children subject to each application.
3. Disposals in 2007 and 2008 may relate to applications made in earlier years.
4. Figures are provided for Family Proceedings Court.
5. For Family Proceedings Courts the earliest available data that can be broken down by HMCS area is from April 2007. Therefore figures for 2007 relate to data from April 2007 to December 2007.

The correct answer should have been:

**Mr Djanogly:** Table 1 shows the number of care and supervision cases outstanding as at the end of December in each year from 2005 to 2009 in the Family Proceedings Courts and County Courts of England and Wales. Data are presented by HM Courts Service areas as a local authority area breakdown is not collected centrally and could be obtained only through the inspection of individual case files at disproportionate cost.

*Table 1*

| | *Total number of care and supervision outstanding cases in the Family Proceedings Court* | | | | | *Total number of care and supervision outstanding cases in the County Courts* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *December* | | | | | *December* | | | | |
| *HMCS area* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
| Avon and Somerset Devon and Cornwall, and Gloucestershire | 342 | 350 | 348 | 319 | 370 | 260 | 303 | 275 | 310 | 389 |
| Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Thames Valley | 227 | 187 | 216 | 218 | 301 | 188 | 221 | 175 | 179 | 320 |
| Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk | 282 | 264 | 372 | 351 | 371 | 273 | 236 | 241 | 233 | 286 |
| Cheshire and Merseyside | 126 | 225 | 210 | 188 | 253 | 240 | 300 | 248 | 261 | 356 |
| Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria | 484 | 642 | 636 | 374 | 533 | 198 | 270 | 264 | 235 | 317 |
| Cumbria and Lancashire | 82 | 115 | 113 | 86 | 101 | 185 | 198 | 218 | 200 | 297 |
| Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight and Wiltshire | 162 | 154 | 206 | 205 | 215 | 160 | 151 | 173 | 165 | 233 |
| East Midlands | 395 | 444 | 367 | 553 | 560 | 164 | 176 | 176 | 214 | 287 |
| Greater Manchester | 133 | 174 | 140 | 351 | 295 | 361 | 378 | 394 | 353 | 547 |
| Humber and South Yorkshire | 166 | 183 | 188 | 115 | 201 | 252 | 265 | 239 | 245 | 335 |
| Kent Surrey and Sussex | 325 | 340 | 364 | 282 | 512 | 256 | 260 | 287 | 245 | 340 |
| London Civil and Family | 1,017 | 1,020 | 888 | 959 | 1,426 | 850 | 733 | 724 | 561 | 758 |
| Mid and West Wales | 94 | 106 | 97 | 115 | 168 | 67 | 43 | 40 | 53 | 115 |
| North and West Yorkshire | 185 | 169 | 293 | 247 | 409 | 229 | 258 | 240 | 225 | 294 |
| North Wales | 16 | 25 | 30 | 41 | 57 | 57 | 77 | 67 | 52 | 80 |
| South East Wales | 157 | 205 | 162 | 108 | 260 | 136 | 133 | 122 | 116 | 156 |
| Staffordshire and West Mercia | 152 | 217 | 219 | 201 | 274 | 104 | 115 | 88 | 88 | 148 |
| West Midlands and Warwickshire | 303 | 320 | 332 | 259 | 966 | 391 | 340 | 342 | 294 | 464 |
| National total | 4,648 | 5,140 | 5,181 | 4,979 | 7,272 | 4,371 | 4,457 | 4,313 | 4,029 | 5,722 |

*Notes:*

1. The data are taken from the HMCS FamilyMan System and Family Case Tracker.
2. The figures relate to the new HMCS areas.
3. The total number of outstanding cases show the total number of care and supervisions cases open at the end of December each year.

Table 2 shows the number of care and supervision orders made in each calendar year from 2004 to 2008 for county courts and the High Court.

*Table 2*

| | *Care and supervision orders made in the County Courts and High Court, England and Wales* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *HMCS area* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
| Avon and Somerset, Devon and Cornwall and Gloucestershire | 395 | 355 | 334 | 372 | 450 |
| Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Thames Valley | 386 | 274 | 337 | 310 | 331 |
| Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk | 327 | 325 | 445 | 399 | 350 |
| Cheshire and Merseyside | 330 | 396 | 393 | 466 | 453 |
| Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria | 369 | 403 | 303 | 349 | 464 |
| Cumbria and Lancashire | 316 | 257 | 342 | 327 | 283 |
| Dorset, Hampshire and IOW and Wiltshire | 311 | 255 | 299 | 255 | 272 |
| East Midlands | 391 | 369 | 299 | 292 | 351 |
| Greater Manchester | 561 | 490 | 715 | 736 | 579 |

*Table 2*

| | *Care and supervision orders made in the County Courts and High Court, England and Wales* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *HMCS area* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
| Humber and South Yorkshire | 435 | 489 | 559 | 611 | 476 |
| Kent, Surrey and Sussex | 266 | 200 | 418 | 471 | 371 |
| London Civil and Family | 916 | 846 | 989 | 878 | 868 |
| Mid and West Wales | 82 | 113 | 109 | 100 | 71 |
| North and West Yorkshire | 516 | 427 | 484 | 552 | 530 |
| North Wales | 106 | 84 | 92 | 167 | 173 |
| South East Wales | 240 | 278 | 262 | 239 | 168 |
| West Mercia and Staffordshire | 175 | 195 | 208 | 253 | 186 |
| West Midlands and Warwickshire | 474 | 509 | 588 | 434 | 446 |
| National Total | 6,596 | 6,265 | 7,176 | 7,211 | 6,822 |

*Notes:*

1. The data are taken from the HMCS FamilyMan System.
2. Figures relate to the number of children subject to each application.
3. Disposals in each year may relate to applications made in earlier years.
4. Figures are provided for County Courts and the High Court.

Table 3 shows the number of care and supervision orders made from April 2007 to December 2008 in the Family Proceedings Courts; figures for earlier periods are not available for these areas.

More recent statistics than those shown are not yet available.

*Table 3*

| | *Care and supervision orders made in the Family Proceedings Courts, England and Wales* | |
|---|---|---|
| *HMCS area* | *April 2007 to December 2007* | *January 2008 to December 2008* |
| Avon and Somerset, Devon and Cornwall and Gloucestershire | 262 | 361 |
| Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Thames Valley | 174 | 272 |
| Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk | 133 | 202 |
| Cheshire and Merseyside | 139 | 135 |
| Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria | 327 | 387 |
| Cumbria and Lancashire | 85 | 84 |
| Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight and Wiltshire | 107 | 121 |
| East Midlands | 198 | 372 |
| Greater Manchester | 76 | 116 |
| Humber and South Yorkshire | 64 | 153 |
| Kent, Surrey and Sussex | 161 | 258 |
| London Crime, Central and South | 533 | 543 |
| Mid and West Wales | 69 | 56 |
| North and West Yorkshire | 176 | 214 |
| North Wales | 9 | 43 |
| South East Wales | 149 | 172 |
| West Mercia and Staffordshire | 172 | 239 |
| West Midlands and Warwickshire | 93 | 129 |
| National total | 2,927 | 3,857 |

*Notes:*

1. The data are taken from the HMCS FamilyMan System and One Performance Truth database.
2. Figures relate to the number of children subject to each application.
3. Disposals in 2007 and 2008 may relate to applications made in earlier years.
4. Figures are provided for Family Proceedings Court.
5. For Family Proceedings Courts the earliest available data that can be broken down by HMCS area is from April 2007. Therefore figures for 2007 relate to data from April 2007 to December 2007.

## Prisoners: Sentencing

**Gavin Shuker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were serving a custodial sentence of *(a)* five years or fewer, *(b)* four years or fewer, *(c)* three years or fewer, *(d)* two years or fewer and *(e)* one year or less for each category of offence in the latest period for which figures are available. [32361]

*[Official Report, 21 December 2010, Vol. 520, c. 1166W.]*

*Letter of correction from Mr Crispin Blunt:*

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Luton South (Gavin Shuker) on 21 December 2010. The figures in the table supplied on the breakdown of the custodial prison population for various sentence lengths by offence group for 30 September 2010 are incorrect.

The full answer given was as follows:

**Mr Blunt:** The following table provides information on custodial sentences in prison establishments in England and Wales by sentence length band and offence category as at 30 September 2010.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

*Custodial prison population as of 30 September 2010 by sentence length and offence category*

| | Sentence length | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence category* | *Less than five years* | *Less than four years* | *Less than three years* | *Less than two years* | *Less than one year* |
| Violence against the person | 7,033 | 5,991 | 4,846 | 3,535 | 1,761 |
| Sexual offences | 2,315 | 1,753 | 1,232 | 720 | 212 |
| Robbery | 3,513 | 2,486 | 1,500 | 619 | 143 |
| Burglary | 5,053 | 4,188 | 2,954 | 1,526 | 507 |
| Theft and handling | 3,719 | 3,517 | 3,207 | 2,768 | 2,047 |
| Fraud and forgery | 1,225 | 1,066 | 903 | 698 | 324 |
| Drug offences | 5,866 | 4,370 | 2,677 | 1,085 | 229 |
| Motoring offences | 877 | 857 | 823 | 759 | 547 |
| Other offences | 4,851 | 4,383 | 3,849 | 3,234 | 2,234 |
| Offences not recorded | 190 | 159 | 128 | 107 | 92 |

The correct answer should have been:

**Mr Blunt:** The following table provides information on custodial sentences in prison establishments in England and Wales by sentence length band and offence category as at 30 September 2010.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

*Custodial prison population as of 30 September 2010 by sentence length and offence category*

| | Sentence length | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence category* | *Less than five years* | *Less than four years* | *Less than three years* | *Less than two years* | *Less than one year* |
| Violence against the person | 7,097 | 5,951 | 4,594 | 3,154 | 1,736 |
| Sexual offences | 2,882 | 1,742 | 1,245 | 721 | 208 |
| Robbery | 3,394 | 2,484 | 1,730 | 930 | 142 |
| Burglary | 4,596 | 4,144 | 2,963 | 1,719 | 499 |
| Theft and handling | 3,594 | 3,484 | 3,016 | 2,514 | 2,019 |
| Fraud and forgery | 1,166 | 1,060 | 826 | 573 | 322 |
| Drug offences | 5,840 | 4,306 | 2,997 | 1,600 | 224 |
| Motoring offences | 847 | 835 | 737 | 633 | 532 |
| Other offences | 4,819 | 4,392 | 3,695 | 2,953 | 2,221 |
| Offences not recorded | 408 | 372 | 315 | 253 | 193 |

### Prostitution: Newham

**Lyn Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions there were for *(a)* kerb crawling, *(b)* soliciting for the purposes of prostitution in a public place, *(c)* keeping a brothel and *(d)* control of prostitution in respect of offences committed in the London borough of Newham in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010. [33388]

*[Official Report, 17 January 2011, Vol. 521, c. 652-53W.]*

*Letter of correction from Mr Crispin Blunt:*

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for West Ham (Lyn Brown) on 17 January 2011. The figures in the table for the number of defendants convicted for keeping a brothel in the Metropolitan police force area were incorrect along with some of the information included in the footnotes that accompanied the table.

The full answer given was as follows:

**Mr Blunt:** The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for selected prostitution related offences in the Metropolitan police force area for the years 2008 to 2009 can be viewed in the table.

Information at borough level is not collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring.

*Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for selected prostitution related offences in the Metropolitan police force area for the years 2008-09*$^{1,2,3}$

| *Offence* | *2008* | *2009* |
|---|---|---|
| Kerb crawling | 165 | 117 |
| Soliciting for the purposes of prostitution in a public place | 114 | 65 |
| Keeping a brothel | 5 | 10 |

*Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for selected prostitution related offences in the Metropolitan police force area for the years 2008-09*[1,2,3]

| *Offence* | *2008* | *2009* |
|---|---|---|
| Control of prostitution | 16 | 4 |

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:
*Kerb, crawling:*
Sexual Offences Act 1985, S.1
kerb crawling
Sexual Offences Act 1985, S.2
Persistent soliciting of person or persons for the purpose of prostitution
*Soliciting for the purposes of prostitution in a public place:*
Sexual Offences Act 1985, S.1
Common prostitute loitering or soliciting for the purpose of prostitution
*Keeping a brothel:*
Sexual Offences Act 1956 S.33A as added by the Sexual Offences Act 1967
Keeping a brothel for prostitution
Sexual Offences Act 1956 S.34
Letting premises for use as a brothel
Sexual Offences Act 1956 S.34
Letting premises for use as a brothel for homosexual practices
Sexual Offences Act 1956 S.35
Tenant permitting premises to be used as a brothel
Sexual Offences Act 1956 S.35 as amended by the Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.53
Tenant permitting premises to be used as a brothel for homosexual practices
Sexual Offences Act 1956 S.33 as amended by the Sexual Offences Act 1967
Keeping a brothel for homosexual practices
*Control of prostitution:*
Sexual Offences Act 2001 S.53
Controlling prostitution for gain
*Source:*
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

The correct answer should have been:

**Mr Blunt:** The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for selected prostitution related offences in the Metropolitan police force area for the years 2008 to 2009 can be viewed in the table.

Information at borough level is not collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring.

*Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for selected prostitution related offences in the Metropolitan police force area for the years 2008-09*[1,2,3]

| *Offence* | *2008* | *2009* |
|---|---|---|
| Kerb crawling | 165 | 117 |
| Soliciting for the purposes of prostitution in a public place | 114 | 65 |
| Keeping a brothel | 11 | 15 |
| Control of prostitution | 16 | 4 |

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:
*Kerb crawling:*
Sexual Offences Act 1985, s.1
Kerb crawling
Sexual Offences Act 1985, s.2
Persistent soliciting of person or persons for the purpose of prostitution
*Soliciting for the purposes of prostitution in a public place:*
Sexual Offences Act 1985, s.1
Common prostitute loitering or soliciting for the purpose of prostitution
*Keeping a brothel:*
Sexual Offences Act 1956 s.33A as added by the Sexual Offences Act 2003 s.55
Keeping a brothel for prostitution
Sexual Offences Act 1956 s.33
Keeping a brothel
Sexual Offences Act 1956 s.34
Letting premises for use as a brothel
Sexual Offences Act 1956 s.35
Tenant permitting premises to be used as a brothel
Sexual Offences Act 1956 s.36
Tenant permitting premises to be used for prostitution
Sexual Offences Act 1956 s.33 as amended by the Sexual Offences Act 1967
Keeping a brothel for homosexual practices
Sexual Offences Act 1956 s.34
Letting premises for use as a brothel for homosexual practices
Sexual Offences Act 1956 s.35 as amended by the Sexual Offences Act 2003 s.53
Tenant permitting premises to be used as a brothel for homosexual practices
Similar provisions in Local Acts
Other offences against keeping a brothel
*Control of prostitution:*
Sexual Offences Act 2001 s.53
Controlling prostitution for gain
*Source*:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

# Ministerial Correction

*Tuesday 22 March 2011*

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### North Africa and the Middle East

*The following is an extract from the opening speech given during the all day debate on North Africa and the Middle East by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the right hon. Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) on 17 March 2011.*

**Mr Hague:** Iran, of course, is an exception to that. Iran has shown breathtaking hypocrisy in claiming to support freedom in the Arab world, while violently suppressing demonstrations and detaining opposition leaders back home—acts that we deplore. We want Iranian citizens to enjoy full civil, political and human rights, and all the benefits of an open relationship with the rest of the world, but that will require the settlement of the nuclear issue, where the ball is firmly in Iran's court. Until Iran negotiates seriously on that issue, the international pressure on it will only increase.

*[Official Report, 17 March 2011, Vol. 525, c. 499-500.]*

*Letter of correction from Mr William Hague:*

An error has been identified in a statement given during my opening speech to the all day debate on North Africa and the Middle East on 17 March 2011.

The correct statement should have been:

**Mr Hague:** Iran, of course, is an exception to that. Iran has shown breathtaking hypocrisy in claiming to support freedom in the Arab world, while violently suppressing demonstrations and detaining opposition leaders back home—acts that we deplore. We want Iranian citizens to enjoy full civil, political and human rights, and all the benefits of an open relationship with the rest of the world, but the latter will require the settlement of the nuclear issue, where the ball is firmly in Iran's court. Until Iran negotiates seriously on that issue, the international pressure on it will only increase.